

## Hungary changes constitution

BUDAPEST (R) — Parliament passed Hungary's constitution of the Socialist Republic of Hungary Wednesday to create a Western-style basic law for a return to multi-party democracy. Deputies voted by 333 to five, with eight abstentions, to accept nearly 100 modifications to the 1949 constitution drawn up after the Communist takeover. Until now, Hungary defined itself as a socialist People's republic in which all power belonged to the working people and the Communist Party was the leading force. Under the modified constitution, Hungary will become an independent, democratic and constitutional republic asserting "the values of both bourgeois democracy and democratic socialism." Justice Minister Kálmán Kulcsár said the changes, affecting 90 per cent of the old constitution, could be seen as creating a "transitional constitution" to change Hungary's political system. Hungary's first free elections since 1947 are due to take place by the end of the year.



# Jordan Times

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A masked Palestinian tightens a chain pulled around his neck during a protest march in the occupied West Bank

## Israeli troops storm U.N. centre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops stormed a United Nations welfare depot in the occupied Gaza Strip Wednesday, arrested three U.N. staff and smashed the windows of a U.N. vehicle, a witness and officials said.

An official of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said two international staff members and a Palestinian employee were arrested during an army raid on an UNRWA food distribution centre in the Dir Al Balah Palestinian refugee camp. The two foreigners were released after three hours and the Gaza was expected to be freed later in the day, said the official, spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity.

A foreign news photographer who witnessed the arrests said

there was no demonstration in progress and he saw no apparent reason for the incident.

UNRWA's official spokesman could not immediately be reached for details.

In Gaza's Shati refugee camp, troops shot and wounded at least three protesters in a dawn clash that erupted when the army lifted a curfew imposed Monday, local hospitals reported.

Troops reimposed the curfew, residents said.

In the West Bank village of 'Ain Ariz, troops on a search-and-arrest operation fired on stone-throwing protesters, wounding at least three teenagers, Palestinian sources said.

Rethlehem residents said troops impersonating tourists arrested a masked youth who allegedly stoned a uniformed

army patrol.

In September, soldiers posing as tourists shot dead a Palestinian demonstrator in Bethlehem, sparking protests from the town's mayor and Israeli officials.

Meanwhile, some 4,500 Christian fundamentalists marched through the streets of Jerusalem Wednesday to show "solidarity" with Israel.

"There are too many people against Israel, cutting it down," said Frank Selinger, 21, of Louisville, Kentucky. "We want to show the Israelis that there are those who love and support Israel as well."

Many in the parade along Jaffa Road, a major Jerusalem shopping street, wore festive native costumes and waved their national flags. About 1,000 Israelis mar-

ched, too, as part of an annual holiday hike through the city.

The route was heavily guarded by policemen and squads of paramilitary border police and soldiers in full battle gear.

Participants said they were not frightened off by the 22-month Palestinian uprising.

The Christians, from 67 countries, are holding a six-day convention here to coincide with a Jewish holiday which concludes Saturday.

The programme is sponsored by the International Christian Embassy, an umbrella organisation for Christian groups that support Israel.

Some of the participants came from countries that have no diplomatic relations with Israel, such as China and East Germany.

## King receives Soviet message on Mideast

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the situation in the Middle East and current Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

The Jordan News Agency,

Petra, said the message was delivered to the King by the Soviet ambassador to Britain, but did not give further details of the message.

It said the King, in a reply message given to the ambassador, thanked the Soviet

leader and outlined his views on current peace efforts and the American initiative to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here Tuesday after an official visit to Canada

during which the King held talks with Canadian leaders on Middle East peace prospects and Jordanian-Canadian cooperation.

During his stay in Britain, the King is scheduled to deliver an address at Oxford University.

## At least 270 killed in California quake

OAKLAND, California (Agencies) — Aftershocks rumbled Wednesday as crews searched for motorists under an elevated highway collapsed by an earthquake that jolted northern California, killing more than 270 people and injuring hundreds.

The magnitude of the temblor, the second deadliest in U.S. history, emerged slowly as officials made contact with hard-hit areas, where many telephones were cut off.

The Tuesday evening quake, measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale, collapsed buildings across nearly 160 kilometres, along with the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and at two spans in the Santa Cruz area 120 kilometres to the south.

Severed gas lines sparked fires, including one in San Francisco that burned a block of buildings, but all were out or under control by Wednesday morning. As many as one million people were left without electricity and other services.

"The devastation is just horrible and we're just shocked," said Governor George Deukmejian, who cut short a trade mission to West Germany.

Aftershocks included one measuring 4.5 on the Richter Scale, according to the National Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colorado.

Those who died in their cars in the mangled wreckage of Interstate 880 in the city of Oakland — across the bay from San Francisco — were among the estimated 271 people killed by the powerful 15-second quake, said a spokesman for the California office of emergency services.

More than 500 people were injured in the tremor.

The earthquake was on the San

### Regent cables condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday sent a cable to U.S. President George Bush expressing condolences over the destructive earthquake which struck San Francisco. The Crown Prince conveyed the condolences of the Jordanian government and people to the U.S. administration and people over the disaster. The Crown Prince also sent a similar cable to U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle.

Andreas Fault, a giant crack in the earth that runs almost the length of California. The great San Francisco earthquake of 1906, the most devastating ever to hit the United States, killed 452 people.

State authorities ordered an inquiry into why supposedly earthquake-proof roads and buildings collapsed.

"We have 253 (dead) in the Oakland highway collapse, six confirmed in Santa Cruz — could be up to 14 — nine in San Francisco and three in San Jose," said a spokeswoman.

"From Santa Cruz we have reports of lots of fires throughout the city, we have multiple building collapses, heavy rescue problems. There are city blocks on fire throughout Santa Cruz city," said the spokesman. The area includes Silicon Valley, the centre of America's computer industry.

President George Bush sent Vice President Dan Quayle and Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner to the area and will formally declare parts of the state a

disaster area, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. San Francisco was in a festive mood at the time of the quake, about to enjoy the third game of the World Series Baseball Championship between two local teams, the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland Athletics. Sixty thousand fans fled from the stadium and the game was postponed.

The quake ripped out sections of the packed bay bridge, connecting San Francisco with Oakland.

The devastated area is home to nearly two million people.

Rescue workers struggled to free people from trapped buildings while fires roared in the fashionable Marina area near the Golden Gate Bridge and other parts of the hilly tourist city.

Skyscrapers swayed as much as two metres, trapping people in lifts. A million people sat by torchlight in their homes after their power had been wiped out.

Looting broke out in some areas and gangs of youths roamed through slum areas with baseball bats, threatening passers-by. Troops were called out to patrol the streets and another 1,500 National Guard militiamen were being rushed to the city.

The worst disaster of the quake was the collapse of a mile-long stretch of Interstate 880, also known as the Nimitz Highway, which officials said was supposed to have been able to withstand an earthquake. It collapsed like a "concrete sandwich," said a spokesman.

Fire engines and ambulances, sirens howling, picked their way through a darkened San Francisco. Buses were jammed and traffic was backed up. Restaurants and bars operated by candlelight.

## Jordan appeals to UNESCO

PARIS (Petra) — Jordan Wednesday called on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to adopt a firm position to counter Israel's violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories, particularly its closure of Palestine educational institutions and encroachments of places of historical and religious heritage in occupied Jerusalem.

Addressing the 25th session of the UNESCO general assembly, Jordan's chief delegate, Education Minister Adnan Badran, also emphasised the need to ensure the right of the Palestinian people to express themselves freely.

He urged continued efforts to end the Lebanese civil war. The fighting in Lebanon, he said, has led to the weakening of all educational and cultural activities there to the point of threatening the identity of its people.

Badran also called for concerted efforts to advance peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq in line with U.N. Security Council resolution 598.

He paid tribute to UNESCO's quick intervention in areas of conflict and said it was a contribution to peace.

Badran also called for firm action against "all forms of aggression against nature" as represented in deterioration of soil, desertification, deforestation, excessive use of pesticides, extinction of species and storage of toxic waste.

He called on developing countries to develop scientific capabilities and acquire technology to enter the 21st century with confidence.

## Kaddoumi: Palestinians should ask for more

LONDON (Agencies) — Top Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Farouk Kaddoumi, in remarks published Wednesday, urged Palestinians to demand more from Israel and the United States.

Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department and the equivalent of a foreign minister, told the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat that Israel and Washington should be compelled to recognise the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people.

"The United States must know the PLO and its Executive Committee, in its capacity as the provisional government (of Palestine) is the only partner (with Israel) in any negotiation," he said in an interview broadcasted Abu Dhabi.

From time-to-time Israel and its U.S. backer came up with proposals or ideas and when one or another Arab party accepted them, Israel would then declare its objections, seeking more concessions from the Arab side, he said.

"We must urge more of what they offer. We must not be satisfied with mere rejection but develop what they offer and ask for

more," Kaddoumi was reported as saying.

Kaddoumi's remarks follow a meeting in Baghdad this week of the Palestine Central Council, which has spurned U.S. mediation efforts and stuck to demands for a central role in the peace process.

Hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that Israel was heading for a clash with the United States over Middle East peace moves, but he vowed Israel would never give up the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir was Wednesday quoted as saying PLO resistance to Palestinian-Israeli peace plans strengthened the Zionist state's resolve to find an alternative negotiating partner.

Shamir warned Tuesday that Israel was heading for a major clash with the United States vowed Israel would never give up occupied Arab territory.

"It is not simple to go to a confrontation with the strongest state in the world. We are not interested in confrontation, but the United States must know Israel has issues it will stand firm on until the end."

"In all regarding the 'land of Israel,' we will stand firm and not give in (even) if we must face a

clash," Shamir said.

Earlier on Tuesday he told his Likud party caucus that tension with Washington was Israel's most "serious problem."

He accused the United States of putting pressure on Israel to talk to the PLO and to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The United States wants to get Israel out of 'Judea, Samaria' (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip. The Americans want to bring us already to a meeting with the PLO," Likud parliamentarians quoted Shamir as saying.

"We cannot produce progress on our own if the parties do not have the will to move ahead," he told reporters.

## U.S. raps Shamir

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States rapped Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Wednesday for making remarks that were unhelpful and disappointing to Middle East peace efforts, sharply escalating tensions between Washington and the Zionist state.

In a sharply-worded statement, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said two speeches by Shamir to the right-wing Likud party Tuesday were "unhelpful and we are disappointed."

"We're not looking for a fight or confrontation with Israel...our only purpose is to help the government of Israel advance its own peace initiative," Tutwiler said.

In his speeches, Shamir warned Israelis they were on a collision course with the United States, Israel's greatest ally and supplier of \$3 billion in annual aid to the Zionist state, over the future of the occupied territories.

"We are not anxious to have such a quarrel with the United States. However, the United States must know that Israel will stand on the issue of the 'Land of Israel' until the very end," Shamir said.

Tutwiler said the suggestion that Israeli-American friendship was imperilled was "inappropriate." She said Shamir had spoken with President George Bush on the telephone after the speeches were delivered. A senior U.S. official said Shamir's remarks had been discussed, but would not elaborate further.

The United States is hoping Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will not apply for a visa to address the U.N. General Assembly next month because officials say that could further upset efforts to get an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue under way.

The official State Department position is that they will decide whether to grant the PLO leader a visa only if and when he applies.

But officials say privately that the Bush administration has been sending Arafat signals that an application at this stage would not be helpful.

## Krenz replaces Honecker

BERLIN (Agencies) — Erich Honecker was replaced as Communist Party chief Wednesday, ending 18 years of iron-fisted rule as the government grapples with street protests and growing public demands for democracy.

State news media said the Communist Party leadership replaced the 77-year-old Honecker with Egon Krenz, a 52-year-old politburo member in charge of security who is an orthodox party member with a reputation as a hardliner.

Two other key members of the ruling politburo also lost their position in the shakeup.

The government-run news agency ADN said Honecker asked to be relieved of his official duties for health reasons. Honecker has reportedly been in ill health following a gall bladder operation in August.

But the East German leader also had been under increasing pressure to resign after a wave of

protests swept the country and pro-democracy movements picked up growing support.

Krenz said in a broadcast interview that he was taking over the leadership at a difficult time for the nation.

In an interview with East German television and carried by West Germany's ARD television network, Krenz said, "I realise this is a difficult task that I have taken over."

"In this very complicated time there is much work before us. Work, work and more work — but this is work that we should undertake gladly in order to improve the situation for everyone," he said.

Despite Krenz's reputation for Communist orthodox Party sources said he decided to call on police to stop beating pro-democracy demonstrators earlier this month in East Berlin and Dresden.

Politburo member Joachim

Herrmann, 60, who was in charge of the nation's media, and Guenter Mittag, 63, the architect of East Germany's economic policy, "were relieved of their functions," ADN reported.

It said both men had lost their posts on the Central Committee and the politburo.

The leadership shakeup was viewed in some quarters as an attempt to placate growing public demands for a freer press and economic reforms.

The demonstrations calling for reform have been the largest in the nation's 40-year history, and followed an exodus of tens of thousands of the nation's citizens that already has caused serious economic problems.

Honecker, who directed the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, will also be relieved of his largely ceremonial post as head of state and his position as chief of the nation's military, ADN said.



## U.S. reports increase in Soviet aid to Kabul

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet military aid to Afghanistan has recently increased, say U.S. sources.

The Soviets this month increased the proportion of arms in daily air cargo shipments to the Afghan capital of Kabul, according to a State Department cable obtained by the Associated Press.

Government sources, basing their calculations on cargo tonnage reported in the cable, said that monthly arms shipments rose to about \$400 million per month from the previous level of between \$250 million and \$300 million a month.

U.S. military aid to Afghanistan's Mujahideen guerrillas has been running at \$550 million to \$600 million per year, according to congressional sources, although the exact level of the covert U.S. programme is classified.

The increase in Soviet military aid to Kabul was to be discussed at a Capitol Hill news conference by Sen. Gordon Humphrey, a Republican, and Reps. Charles Wilson, a Democrat, and Don Ritter, a Republican.

The State Department cable said the Afghan and Soviet governments boosted the proportion of weapons in air cargo sent to Kabul from about two-thirds of the daily volume to about three-quarters.

The cable challenged Afghan government assertions that attacks by the Mujahideen were causing food shortages in the capital.

"The real cause of any shortages lies in the Kabul regime's decision to give higher priorities to weapons supplies than food," said the cable.

"Most observers believe that the regime is currently allocating over three-fourths of its cargo capacity to moving other cargo, principally munitions, including large supplies of weapons which serve no defensive purpose, such

as Scud missiles," said the cable.

The report of increased arms shipments came the day after Secretary of State James Baker, in a speech in New York, said an earlier boost in Soviet arms deliveries had prolonged the fighting.

One administration analyst, however, said that calculating the exact tonnage and value of Soviet arms shipments to Kabul was very uncertain.

The increase in Soviet arms shipments, and problems among the guerrillas, who have fought among themselves, have prompted the United States to find new arms routes to the rebels, say congressional and White House sources.

The CIA, working through Pakistani intelligence, is sending fewer arms through seven resistance parties based in Pakistan, and channelling them instead to guerrilla commanders who control the countryside and who increasingly are thought to hold the key to Afghanistan's future, according to the sources.

Neither the Afghan interim government, forced last February by rebels in Pakistan after Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan, nor the guerrilla commanders have shown inclination to compromise with Kabul. Government forces remain entrenched in Kabul and other major cities, and the battlelines have shifted little since the Red Army left.

U.S. arms shipments to the rebels slowed to a trickle at the beginning of the fighting season last summer, say administration, congressional and Afghan sources, although that point is in dispute.

Rebels report advance on Khost

Meanwhile, guerrillas have advanced on the eastern town of Khost and the government reportedly is trying to resupply its troops there by land and air, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

U.S.-supported anti-Communist rebels launched a major offensive against the heavily-fortified garrison town several weeks ago, and the sources said guerrilla fighters have moved within five kilometres of the Khost Airport.

One source, presumably with access to satellite pictures, also said that "photographs show parachutes inside the Khost perimeter. ... There is clear visible evidence of air droppings."

Rebel sources said government planes two weeks ago had parachuted 44 barrels of fuel to the area for its forces, but only about eight reached its target and the remainder landed in guerrilla-controlled areas.

In Kabul, a government spokesman said troops had spent the last two days strengthening their positions in Khost after several days of fighting.

The spokesman, who declined to be identified, said government forces had come under long-range missile attack and heavy weapons fire, and that three soldiers were wounded.

None of the reports could be independently verified.

Rebel control of Khost, about 16 kilometres from the Pakistan border, would open direct supply lines to guerrilla bases in central and northern Afghanistan.

The Western diplomats said Tuesday a 200-vehicle convoy left Kabul late last week with supplies bound for Khost. They said it was moving slowly towards Gardez, about 75 kilometres northwest of Khost, according to diplomats.

The same sources said Soviet-made Antonov cargo planes have been landing at Khost during the night, but "they only stay on the ground 10 minutes."

Diplomats also said rebels have blockaded the 125-kilometre highway linking Afghanistan's capital of Kabul to the eastern city of Jalalabad.

U.S. arms shipments to the rebels slowed to a trickle at the beginning of the fighting season last summer, say administration, congressional and Afghan sources, although that point is in dispute.

## Garang: Khartoum will renew war

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebel leader John Garang, ending a seven-nation African tour, accused the military junta in Khartoum of preparing to renew fighting after an informal truce.

"The other side is moving to attack us... We don't have to wait for a bullet in our head," Garang told a news conference in Nairobi before heading for the southern Sudan civil war zone.

Garang, head of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, said he hoped his month-long African tour would lead to negotiations, but the junta had not responded to a SPLA peace plan.

The plan, which the SPLA presented to the junta in August, calls for a broad-based government, a new army, a conference to write a constitution and fresh elections.

He said the tour was a diplomatic triumph because the SPLA peace plan was supported by Kenya's President Daniel Arap Moi, whom he saw Monday, and other East and Central African leaders.

Garang visited Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Ma-

## 3rd PLO official killed in Sidon in 8 days

SIDON (AP) — The assassination of a third guerrilla official in 8 days sharply escalated tension Tuesday in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh, where residents went on strike to protest the shooting, police said.

Armed guerrillas loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat swooped through the narrow alleys of the densely populated shantytown early in the day after one of their colleagues was shot dead by unidentified assailants.

A police spokesman, who cannot be identified in line with regulations, said Munir Saadi, a corporal with the PLO's military police in the camp, was shot in the head shortly before dawn.

Witnesses said pro-Arafat guerrillas fired their automatic rifles in the air in the traditional way of expressing anger and shouted slogans blaming the killing on "agents of Israel."

Brig. Wajih Abu Ali, commander of the PLO's military police in the camp on the eastern edge of Sidon, issued a statement blaming the killing on "a terrorist and criminal faction" which he did not name.

Saadi's assassination came one week after unidentified assailants gunned down Palestinian physician Ali Hashem in Ain Al Hilweh.

Hashem, a member of Arafat's mainline Fatah guerrilla group, was very popular among the camp's 50,000 refugees.

Hashem was killed one day after gunmen shot and killed a follower of Palestinian leader Abu Nidal in the camp.

Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolution-

## U.N. approves stronger ties with Arab League

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States and Israel cast the only negative votes when the General Assembly approved an annual resolution calling for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and the Arab League.

The vote was 143 to two, with no abstention.

The Assembly earlier approved by consensus a resolution sponsored by 20 West European countries requesting U.N. observer status for the Council of Europe, founded in 1949 and involved in most areas of global cooperation.

U.S. delegate Pearl Bailey said that, as in previous years, her delegation would vote against the draft on cooperation between the United Nations and the Arab League.

She said it asked the U.N. Secretary General to try to implement U.N. resolutions that the United States had opposed as damaging to prospects for peace and security in the Middle East.

"We cannot support adoption of a text that is so clearly inconsistent with United States policy," she said.

But the United States underscored its strong support for the efforts of a tripartite Arab League committee trying to settle the conflict in Lebanon, she added.

Aaron Jacob of Israel said that since Israel was established, the Arab League had pursued objectives and activities against his country that were in direct contradiction to the U.N. charter.

The Arab League's Observer, Clovis Maksoud, said members of the League emphasised the importance of implementing U.N. resolutions and sought to use U.N. mechanisms to protect the rights of peoples and human rights.

He said the Arab League wanted an international conference under U.N. supervision to settle all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of relevant U.N. resolutions.

"The continuation of the uprising of the Palestinian people and the resistance to Israeli occupation and practices of repression is another evidence of a strong will

## Spain hopes Kabul will free writer

MADRID (R) — The Spanish government has said it had appealed to Afghanistan to release a detained Spanish writer but the letter probably arrived after he had received a five-year prison sentence.

An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters in Kabul that Jorge Juan Sanchez Garcia was sentenced Sunday to five years' jail for entering the country illegally and "collecting anti-government propaganda."

A letter from Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez asking for his release probably arrived at the same time as the sentence, he was being decided, a ministry spokesman in Madrid said. "We are still hoping for a positive reply," he added.

Spain has no embassy in Kabul and the minister has asked Turkey to use its good offices but had not yet received a reply, the spokesman said.

## Ethiopia to impose emergency-rebels

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian rebels said Wednesday President Mengistu Haile Mariam had escaped an assassination attempt and would soon impose a national state of emergency.

The Voice of the Tigray Revolution, clandestine radio of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), said the attempt was made recently by a special brigade guarding Mengistu, Ethiopia's undisputed ruler since 1977, but did not say where and how the attempt was made or how the heavily guarded Mengistu foiled it.

The radio also said TPLF and government representatives had recently met in London to explore possibilities of holding talks to end their 14-year war.

Diplomats in East Africa say there have been wild rumours about plots against Mengistu in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa since Mengistu violently crushed an attempted military takeover by the country's military commanders in May.

The role of feudal Emperor Haile Selassie was toppled in 1974 by young military officers who set the nation on a radical Marxist path.

"The Dergue (government) will soon declare a state of emergency in Ethiopia and this has been confirmed by other sources," the TPLF radio said.

It said a series of meetings held for a month in London with the Addis Ababa government was a step forward. "If, in future, the Dergue wants to resolve the problem peacefully, the TPLF hereby expresses its sincere de-

## Iraq accuses Iran of violating ceasefire

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has accused Iran of 73 violations last month of the ceasefire that ended their 1980-88 Gulf war. Iraq's complaint to the U.N. Security Council listed helicopter flights near the border, the building of observation posts close to Iraqi positions, and the flooding of land on the Iranian side of the front, Iraqi News Agency reported.

## 500 couples marry in mass ceremony

NICOSIA (R) — Five hundred couples were married at a mass wedding ceremony in Tehran marking the eve of the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Mohammad, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported. The agency, received in Nicosia, said that in addition to Iranians the couples included Muslims from Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia and Syria.

## Mubarak criticises Syria for allowing 'insults' by PFLP

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak has criticised Syria for allowing a radical Palestinian group to "insult" Egypt from its soil, the state-run Middle East News Agency said.

MENA carried Mubarak's comments from Tobruk, Libya where he spoke to reporters after meeting with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Asked if relations with Syria could improve as they did with Libya, Mubarak said "There is no problem between us and Syria."

"I know President Hafez Assad (of Syria) well and I know others there well and there is no problem with them except that I blame them for letting George Habash insult Egypt from Damascus."

Mubarak was referring to a warning made in the Syrian capital, Damascus on Oct. 9 by George Habash, chief of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"I do not know George Habash personally, and I do not wish to comment further, but I say that this is not right."

"In his comments, Habash rejected a 10-point plan put forward by Mubarak for Middle East peace, and said the Egyptian President could suffer the same fate as his predecessor, Anwar Sadat who was killed by Muslim extremists on Oct. 6, 1981, partly because of his peace treaty with Israel."

"I advise Mubarak to stop his dependence on the United States..."

"Otherwise, he might face the same destiny as his predecessor, Sadat."

Habash also said "we are facing two enemies: Israel, backed by the United States and Egypt, backed by Arab reactionary regimes."

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## Mubarak criticises Syria for allowing 'insults' by PFLP

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak has criticised Syria for allowing a radical Palestinian group to "insult" Egypt from its soil, the state-run Middle East News Agency said.

MENA carried Mubarak's comments from Tobruk, Libya where he spoke to reporters after meeting with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Asked if relations with Syria could improve as they did with Libya, Mubarak said "There is no problem between us and Syria."

"I know President Hafez Assad (of Syria) well and I know others there well and there is no problem with them except that I blame them for letting George Habash insult Egypt from Damascus."

Mubarak was referring to a warning made in the Syrian capital, Damascus on Oct. 9 by George Habash, chief of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"I do not know George Habash personally, and I do not wish to comment further, but I say that this is not right."

"In his comments, Habash rejected a 10-point plan put forward by Mubarak for Middle East peace, and said the Egyptian President could suffer the same fate as his predecessor, Anwar Sadat who was killed by Muslim extremists on Oct. 6, 1981, partly because of his peace treaty with Israel."

"I advise Mubarak to stop his dependence on the United States..."

"Otherwise, he might face the same destiny as his predecessor, Sadat."

Habash also said "we are facing two enemies: Israel, backed by the United States and Egypt, backed by Arab reactionary regimes."

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"We are witnessing the continuation of the positive tendency on behalf of the Soviet Union and we hope that in the future they will be even more positive towards Israel," Areas said in a statement.

The Soviet Union, which in the past has voted to reject the Israeli delegation's credentials, broke diplomatic links with the Jewish state during the 1967 Middle East war.

But relations between the two countries have warmed in recent years with the exchange of consular missions, the expansion of cultural and other ties and the removal of most barriers to Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

U.S. military aid to Afghanistan's Mujahideen guerrillas has been running at \$550 million to \$600 million per year, according to congressional sources, although the exact level of the covert U.S. programme is classified.

## Middle East News Briefs

### U.N. names adviser for occupied lands

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Francis Blanchard, former director-general of the International Labour Organisation, on Tuesday was named special adviser for the U.N.'s economic development programmes in Israel-occupied territories. He will report to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who said he was concerned that economic problems of Palestinians in the occupied territories had "worsened during the past two years."

His main task is to broaden the scope of programmes financed through the U.N. system, particularly the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) which provides economic and social assistance to Palestinians. Blanchard, a French national, was head of the International Labour Organisation from 1974 to 1989.

### Spain hopes Kabul will free writer

MADRID (R) — The Spanish government has said it had appealed to Afghanistan to release a detained Spanish writer but the letter probably arrived after he had received a five-year prison sentence.

An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters in Kabul that Jorge Juan Sanchez Garcia was sentenced Sunday to five years' jail for entering the country illegally and "collecting anti-government propaganda."

A letter from Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez asking for his release probably arrived at the same time as the sentence, he was being decided, a ministry spokesman in Madrid said. "We are still hoping for a positive reply," he added.

Spain has no embassy in Kabul and the minister has asked Turkey to use its good offices but had not yet received a reply, the spokesman said.

### Iraq accuses Iran of violating ceasefire

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has accused Iran of 73 violations last month of the ceasefire that ended their 1980-88 Gulf war. Iraq's complaint to the U.N. Security Council listed helicopter flights near the border, the building of observation posts close to Iraqi positions, and the flooding of land on the Iranian side of the front, Iraqi News Agency reported.

### 500 couples marry in mass ceremony

NICOSIA (R) — Five hundred couples were married at a mass wedding ceremony in Tehran marking the eve of the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Mohammad, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported. The agency, received in Nicosia, said that in addition to Iranians the couples included Muslims from Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia and Syria.

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FAX 606938, AMMAN - JORDAN.

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Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**

15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
16:45	Children programme
17:00	Hit Squad
18:00	News for the Deaf
18:15	Religious programme
19:00	Health programme
19:15	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
21:30	Local news
21:45	Programme review
22:00	Local programme
22:30	News in Arabic
23:10	Arabic film

**PROGRAMME TWO**

17:20	Champs Elysees
17:30	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en France
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varities
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Guinness Record
21:10	Max Headroom
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature film: "Will G. Gordon Liddy"

**PRAYER TIMES**

04:20	Fajr
05:37	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:21	Dhuhr
14:23	'Asr
17:49	Maghrib
18:21	'Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622346  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771731.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Barbara Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 685326.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811235.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 818817 and 654932.

**WEATHER**

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The effect of the cold air mass will continue making it partly cloudy and rainy at times and causing gradual drop in temperatures. Winds will be westerly to moderate to strong causing dust in the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and partly cloudy with northerly fresh wind and rough sea.

Min./max. temp.

Amman	13 / 19
Aqaba	19 / 28
Dhaka	12 / 24
Jordan Valley	18 / 23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

**AMMAN:**

Dr. Khaled Ma'adi	743500
Dr. Foyez Jelloush	624207
Dr. Issa Haddad	779707
Dr. Awad Hammad	777605
First pharmacy	661912
Perkins pharmacy	775326
Al Asena pharmacy	67005
Naroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660

**IBRD:**

Dr. Ahmad Al Naqoori	(-)
Al Shara'a pharmacy	(985238)

**ZARQA:**

Dr. Mishah Al Hijwili	(-)
Khalifeh pharmacy	965417

**EMERGENCIES**

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Red Cross	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Compliments	605800
Price Complaints	651176
Water and Sewerage	

**Complaints** ..... 891467  
**Amman Municipality** ..... 787111  
**Complaints** ..... 787111  
**Telephone Information** (directory assistance) ..... 121  
**Overseas Calls** ..... 602030  
**Central Amman Telephone Repairs** ..... 623101  
**Abdali Telephone Repairs** ..... 661012  
**Radio Jordan** ..... 773111  
**Radio Jordan** ..... 74111  
**Water Authority** ..... 680100  
**Jordan Electricity Authority** ..... 815615  
**Electric Power** ..... 636381  
**Compensation** ..... 683301  
**RJ Flight Information** ..... 68-33200  
**Queens Alas Int. Airport** ..... 68-33200

**IBRD:**

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Don Al Nadees Hospital	(02)247100
Al-Qadisi	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alas International Airport Tel. (03)53202-5, where it should always be verified.

**HOSPITALS**

**AMMAN:**

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity	642612
Abdali Maternity, J. Ann.	624412
Abel Amman Maternity	642632
Maltes, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	664171/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	643845
Al-Musaber Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Abli, Abdali	664164/5
Italian, Al-Muhajir	777011/3
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafathi	775112/26
Arzy, Marika	874117/15
Queens Allin Hospital	622240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

**ZARQA:**

Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)833322
Zarga National Hospital	(09)910771
The Siza Hospital	(09)986732

**ARRIVALS**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

04:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:00	Damascus (RJ)
05:20	New Delhi (RJ)
05:40	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
06:10	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
06:15	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
06:15	London (RJ)
06:30	Larnaca (RJ)
07:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:30	Cairo (RJ)
08:00	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
08:30	Bangkok (RJ)
09:45	Rome (RJ)
09:15	Baghdad (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

09:10	Sanaa (LH)
12:20	Cairo (MS)

**MARKET PRICES**

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (golden)	420 / 380
Apple (red)	300 / 300
Banana	430 / 400
Banana (Miskammar)	400 / 350
Beans	380 / 500
Broccoli	170 / 140
Carrot	320 / 300
Cauliflower	170 / 220

Corn	250 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	200 / 150
Cucumbers (small)	180 / 150
Dates	430 / 460
Eggplant	220 / 180
Garlic	900 / 800
Grapes (red)	220 / 180
Grapes (black)	400 / 350
Guava	450 / 400
Leemon	200 / 160
Mallow	160 / 120
Marrow (large)	180 / 150
Marrow (small)	340 / 280

Okra	600 / 550
Onion (dry)	300 / 250
Pepper (hot)	230 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	230 / 180
Potatoes	300 / 300
Spinach	300 / 250

Spinach	300 / 250
Sweet Melon	300 / 300
Tomatoes	150 / 120
Water Melon	200 / 170

**DEPARTURES**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

04:30	Rome (RJ)
05:00	London (RJ)
05:15	Paris (RJ)
05:30	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
05:40	Larnaca (RJ)
05:40	Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
05:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
06:15	Baghdad (RJ)
06:20	Cairo (RJ)
06:45	Dahab, Muscat (RJ)
07:15	Bangkok (RJ)
07:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:30	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

09:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:10	Frankfurt (LH)
10:05	Cairo (MS)
10:20	Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
10:35	Kuwait (KU)
10:40	Baghdad (IA)
10:50	Aankar, Istanbul (TK)
10:50	Dahab (EK)
17:15	Bucharest (RO)
17:40	Riyadh (SV)

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**

15:30	Koran
16:15	Children programme
16:45	Religious programme
17:00	Friday's prayer
17:15	Religious programme
17:30	Sports programme
18:00	Religious seminar
18:15	Feature film
18:30	Message from Oman
19:00	Local programme
19:15	Local programme
19:30	News in Arabic
20:00	Local programme
20:15	Local programme
20:30	Local programme
20:45	Local programme
21:00	Local programme
21:15	Local programme
21:30	Local programme
21:45	Local programme
22:00	Local programme
22:15	Local programme
22:30	Local programme
22:45	Local programme
23:00	Local programme
23:15	Local programme
23:30	Local programme
23:45	Local programme
24:00	Local programme

**PROGRAMME TWO**

17:20	French play
17:30	News in French
17:45	Documentary
18:00	News in Hebrew
18:15	News in Arabic
18:30	Mr. Bevedere
18:45	Murder She Wrote
19:00	News in Arabic
19:15	Calys
19:30	Three's Company

**PRAYER TIMES**

04:23	Fajr
05:39	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:20	Dhuhr
14:21	'Asr
17:45	Maghrib
18:20	'Isha

**FOR FRIDAY**



## ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Murad

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision not to exercise its option to bar political activists from running the Nov. 8 election to the Lower House has drawn expressions of wide relief from voters who advocate pluralism in political ideologies. But the other side of the coin shows that some candidates, after loudly calling for allowing political parties, are now crying help in some of the districts.

In the third district — more precisely in the contest to secure the lone Christian seat — some candidates were counting on article 18 E of the election law in their formula for victory. Now they are frantically consulting among themselves to bring about withdrawal of some from the race to allow non-politically motivated candidates to hold their grounds and retain some semblance of a chance to win.

We have already heard of one such withdrawal, obviously it will not be the last. The wisdom behind the government's decision to turn its back on Article 18 E is already showing itself. If only because it seems to be successful in reducing the number of candidates.

A CANDIDATE who invited his supporters and potential voters to a Mansaf party — 35 Mansaf trays no less — later was expressing his shock at his constituency's apathy.

THE SAME candidate addressing a meeting with rivals went out of his way to voice his strong support of women's rights. But he is known to have later confided in his friends that he could not believe that women were given the right to vote in the first place.

MANY candidates are now being recognized as ardent advocates of opening universities to all Tawfiq graduates, but in private they concede that the call is indeed "economically not feasible" and will not contribute to the proper development in the country. "We have to make a structural study of the needs of the country, but it is already obvious that what we need is more technicians, applied scientists, nurses and services personnel, rather than universities," is the private finding of one candidate.

## Princess Basma visits U of J

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday stressed the need to have higher education institutions interact with society. During a meeting with female staff at the University of Jordan held Wednesday, Princess Basma noted also underlined the need to promote horizons of cooperation and provide the opportunity for society to benefit from women's scientific capabilities at the university.

The conferees decided to form a committee entrusted with the duty of preparing a formula to demonstrate the capabilities of university staff members and to ensure genuine interaction between university and society.

Princess Basma toured various university facilities and was accompanied by University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra and a number of officials.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**ROYAL DECREE:** A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday endorsing an amendment to the Jordanian trade licence law. The amendment defined licence fees charged from craftsmen and the terms of reference of the municipal councils to issue these licences. The amendment also has provision for the protection of environment. (Petra)

**CONDOLENCES:** Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has delegated the assistant governor of Karak to convey his condolences to the Rawashdeh family on the death of the late Colonel Khalaf Rawashdeh. (Petra)

**JORDAN TO ATTEND TUNIS TALKS:** The Cabinet has approved Jordan's participation in the 7th session of the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) due to convene in Tunis Oct. 22. The two-day meetings will discuss cooperation among Arab countries in the fields of industry, the AOID's future plans, and its budget for 1990. (Petra)

**KHAYYAT RECEIVES ENVOYS:** Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Wednesday discussed with French Ambassador to Jordan Dennis Bouchard means to bolster bilateral relations. Khayyat also received Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe at the conclusion of his tour of duty. The discussions dealt with bilateral relations and means to improve them. Present at both meetings was Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry Secretary General Dr. Ahmad Hlayyil. (Petra)

**SAKET, UAE ENVOY HOLD TALKS:** Minister of Agriculture Dr. Bassam Al Saket Wednesday discussed with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador Mohammad Jassim Al Ali means to develop cooperation between the two countries. (Petra)

**ARAB TRANSPORT COUNCIL MEETS:** The executive bureau of the Arab Ministers of Transport Council opened a two-day meeting in Baghdad prior to the Arab transport ministers meeting due to open in the Iraqi capital Saturday. Matters related to joint Arab transport projects will be discussed by the bureau which groups Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Morocco and Saudi Arabia. (Petra)

**JORDAN TAKES PART IN CONFERENCE ON DRUGS:** Jordan took part in an international conference on drugs and medicines which was held in Paris under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO). Pharmacist Nayef Hamameh, who represented the Health Ministry at the conference, submitted a working paper reviewing Jordan's experiments in the registration of drugs which are marketed in Jordan.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and Ammar Khomash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- ★ An Islamic book exhibition displaying a collection of books dealing with economic and literary matters related to Islam in addition to children's books, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A photographic exhibition depicting life as well as historical and archaeological places in Oman at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An Italian photo exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILMS

- ★ A French film entitled "Murdered House" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "Amadeus" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ An Italian film entitled "L'Albero Dei Diamanti" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:00 p.m.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday receives the deputy prime minister of the Soviet Republic of Latvia and his accompanying delegation at the Royal Court in Amman (Petra photo)

## Number of tourists expected to rise by 15% in '90 — Hikmat

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The number of tourists to come to the Kingdom in 1990 is expected to rise by 15 per cent over those of 1989; and this calls for proper measures and careful plans to absorb the increase and to benefit from this boom in the tourism industry, according to Tourism Minister Yamil Hikmat.

The tourism sites in Jordan in general and those of Aqaba and the Nabatean city of Petra in particular, are now witnessing a flood of visitors from Jordan and other countries; and therefore the ministry plans to expand its services and improve the resthouses to cope with the situation, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In the first nine months of 1989, the minister said, Jordan's tourists increased by 26 per cent over the same period of last year, thanks to the efforts to travel and tourist offices which have been closely cooperating with the Ministry of Tourism to boost the industry in Jordan, the minister said following the distribution of meritorical certificates to representatives of eight of these offices.

He said that the eight offices have together organised visits by tourists who spent more than 10,000 nights in the Kingdom's tourist attractions in 1988.

Hikmat expressed hope that these offices will cooperate with the Ministry of Tourism to work out detailed programmes to absorb further numbers of tourists.

ists in the country during the coming winter season.

Last month the Ministry of Tourism announced that the winter tourism season has started, and that some 700 tourists from Europe would be arriving in the port city of Aqaba as of October.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) organised two weekly trips from Helsinki, in Finland, directly to Aqaba during the past winter season, and tourist officials said that the flights could be increased in view of the rising demand on such weekly visits.

In 1988, Jordan was visited by 600,000 tourists earning the country some JD 230 million, according to Hikmat.

The minister said Jordan was visited by 94,000 tourists in the



Yamil Hikmat first nine months of 1989, compared with 75,000 in the same period of 1988.

## Jordan, Iraq discuss training of preachers

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Iraqi agreement on religious and cultural affairs came under discussion here Wednesday by visiting Iraqi Ministry of Awqaf Under Secretary Mohammad Sharif and Dr. Ahmad Hlayyil, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs secretary general.

A statement later said that the two sides agreed to exchange expertise related to training of

mosque preachers and imams by organising courses at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Training Centre in Amman and at an institute run by the Iraqi Ministry of Awqaf in Baghdad.

Several Jordanian students will be accepted at an Islamic higher studies institute in Baghdad while Iraqi students will be offered courses at the Sharia College in Jordan, the statement said.

## Jordan Times

Tel: 667171-6

## Democratic atmosphere should extend to press — journalists

By Sama Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As Jordan, by all counts, appears to be on the verge of a new era in its history — be it political, economic or democratic — Jordanian journalists are seeking to consolidate freedom of the press. The argument goes that journalists, their association and the people from all sectors of the nation must struggle to achieve this right in order to function as the "fourth estate" and become a medium of conveying truthful information to the people of Jordan and the world at large.

speaking at a debate on the press and elections at the Professional Associations Complex Tuesday evening, the head of the Jordan Press Association, Hashem Khreisat, and two other journalists, Mohammad Tumaleh and Mohammad Madyeh, agreed that the current press in Jordan is not as it should be.

"The press will continue to fail in its role if it does not truly become a fourth estate," Khreisat told the audience, which included journalists and others.

He added that the Jordanian press and publications law — which gives authority to the government to close down any newspaper, and therefore puts many restrictions and limits on journalists' freedoms — must be cancelled. He asserted that the law was "an obstacle for journalistic development, and therefore, public development in awareness in political, economic and social changes."

"How can we become an authority, or a fourth estate, if we have no laws that protect our rights to write and report freely and honestly? How are we to serve the citizens with substantial and truthful information if the press does not belong to its own authority but belongs to a different authority?" Khreisat asked.

He pointed out that all the journalists who have either been dismissed from their jobs at newspapers or had been previously banned from writing by the government were treated so because of their opinions in their writings and columns. "And these jour-

nalists are not protected by the law," Khreisat said.

One of the speakers, Tumaleh, was introduced to the audience as having been fired "arbitrarily" Monday by the Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily "because of a couple of columns he had written that had offended the guilty."

Madyeh contended that the press "has become a toy in the hands of the authorities. Journalists are asked to be labourers for these authorities and are under the constant threat not to write freely on important issues."

Madyeh, who said he himself had faced prison terms and been banned from writing several times in the past 15 years, said that "this is not the time for media backwardness." He noted that "the elections are a step towards democracy, and the press should be given the same democratic atmosphere, especially where the elections are being covered."

"The press must be given the freedom at this point to write and publish people's feelings, and what they want, need and expect for a better future. Free press provides people with truthful and substantial views and information for the people to be able to create their own trends and develop their own views and values on different issues," Madyeh asserted.

On the other hand, Tumaleh was cynical about newspapers, saying that they "are handling the elections not as an important development in the Kingdom, but rather as a profit-making development for the publications."

"They see the elections as bringing in more money, especially when they all met and decided to increase the candidates' advertisement rate by 50 per cent," Tumaleh said.

He complained that only the wealthy candidates would be able to afford advertising in the local newspapers, and therefore only the wealthy will make it to parliament.

He added that the creation of the unified advertising agents for all local newspapers was another proof of profit-hunting from the elections.

### People depend on press

On the importance of the press for the people, Khreisat said that a large section of the society depends on published information on certain local issues, especially the current elections.

He referred to a survey conducted at the University of Jordan on the effect the media had in moving the political and general awareness on the parliamentary elections. "The study found that 60 per cent of those surveyed depended on the media to learn about the elections, especially on publications," he said, adding that truth and objectivity must be provided for public awareness.

Khreisat cited factors that the press, including television and radio, should tackle in the elections to provide the public with information. The press should: — have an active role in showing the election process from all its aspects.

— Concentrate on the citizens' opinions; their worries and fears of the elections; what is expected from the people, what they expect from the future parliament and deputies and what are the issues that should be tackled. This, Khreisat said, shows the general trend, and thus helps the candidates in creating their own programmes.

— educate people on the election process, and inform them of their rights and duties.

— present the written laws (electoral), analysis; statements and statistics on the developments of the elections.

— ensure substantial information and objectivity.

— institute new values and basis in dealing with elections through showing the past negative experiences, and finding different formulas that suit the new political, economic, social and cultural situation.

— publish daily columns or news to constantly update the public on the electoral developments.

— treat and analyse the positive and negative aspects of the electoral law within the developments of the electoral battles.

## Crown Prince, Sharif Zeid hold talks with Latvian deputy premier

## Israel seeks to absorb largest number of Jews on Arab land — Regent

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday discussed the Middle East question, Israel's violations in the occupied Arab lands and its constant drive to settle Jews in occupied Arab territories at a meeting with a visiting delegation representing the Soviet Republic of Latvia.

"Israel seeks to evict the Palestinian people from their land and drive them across the river into Jordan and other Arab countries in a bid to make way for newcomers," the Prince said with clear reference to recent reports about the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union.

Israel, he noted, "strives to absorb the greatest number of Jews and give them land which belongs to the Palestinian people; and is promoting this drive in its mass media and information services."

The Regent said at a meeting in Amman Monday that some 200,000 Jews were expected to leave their country, and only 18,000 would be taken in by the United States while the rest were expected to be absorbed in the occupied Palestinian land.

In reviewing the effects of Israel's occupation of Palestinian land, the Regent said Israel "stands to benefit economically by marketing its products in the occupied Arab region while it continues to exploit Arab natural resources and appropriate Arab lands for its agricultural projects and its settlements."

The Prince reviewed with the delegation, led by Alfred Chibanis, who is Latvia's deputy prime minister, relations between Moscow and Amman, and current efforts to promote bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Prince Hassan expressed hope that Soviet-Arab cooperation will be increased, and added that Jordan hopes the Soviet Union and the United States will promote the cause of comprehensive security in the Middle East region through their on-going disarmament talks.

Prince Hassan also briefed the visiting delegation on Jordan's endeavours to promote the national economy.

For his part, Chibanis expressed his country's appreciation of Jordan's efforts to reach peace, and lauded the existing ties of friendship between the Soviet Union and Jordan.

Chibanis said he will convey Prince Hassan's views to the Soviet leadership.

Earlier Wednesday, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker emphasised the Jordanian government's interest in pursuing the course of close cooperation with

the Soviet Union in economic, cultural and touristic fields among other subjects of common concern.

The prime minister, who was speaking at a meeting with Chibanis and his accompanying delegation, paid tribute to the Soviet Union for its clear and positive policies towards the Arab World and its support for just Arab causes, including the Middle East and the Palestine issues in general and its supportive stand towards Jordan in particular.

The delegation is visiting Jordan to take part in week-long festivities marking the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Week.

Chibanis, for his part, voiced his country's concern to maintain the strongest possible ties of friendship and cooperation with Jordan.

He also paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's stands and his endeavours to attain peace at the regional and international levels.

The meeting was in the presence of Mr. Bahjat Talhoum, president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin and Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuck.

The 24-member delegation will attend exhibitions and other events during the festival which will be held in Amman, Irbid and Aqaba; and will also attend lectures dealing with Soviet-Jordanian ties.

## Arab ministers begin talks on environmental protection

CAIRO (Petra) — A Jordanian memorandum on the establishment of a regional centre in Amman to provide information about the environment to the Arab countries will be among the main topics on the agenda of a three-day meeting by ministers in charge of the environment in the Arab World.

Yousef Himadan who represents Jordan at the meeting said that the ministers will also discuss a Jordanian recommendation on imposing a special tax on imported pesticides and on establishing a pan-Arab fund to finance projects related to the environment.

The meeting will deal with questions pertaining to desertification, industrial pollution,

education and information to the public about protecting the environment, the minister said in a statement at the start of the conference which is attended by delegates from 22 Arab countries.

According to the minister, the meeting will review the achievements of the Arab Ministers of Environment Council and their previous recommendations about measures to safeguard the environment.

## University to host regional conference on chest diseases

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least 300 delegates from Arab and foreign countries will gather here next Wednesday for a three-day conference on chest diseases and surgery which will be held at the University of Jordan.

According to a committee preparing for the three-day conference, 67 working papers, including 12 from Jordan, will be discussed by the participants who represent various medical institutions and research centres.

Dr. Abdullah Al Qadad, the conference chairman, told a press conference here that the main speakers come from France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Netherlands, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait in addition to Jordan.

He said that diseases connected with smoking and the environment will be among the main topics, which also include heart and lung transplants, lung cancer

and respiratory diseases.

Dr. Nabil Samara, who chairs the preparatory committee, said that the specialists will exchange views about modern trends in medical practice, and will acquaint themselves with Jordan's experiences in chest treatment.

The conference was organised by the Jordan Society for Chest Diseases in cooperation with the

University of Jordan, the Faculty of Medicine at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, the Health Ministry, the National Medical Institution and the private sector in Jordan.

Samara said that the coming conference will declare the date and venue of the first Arab conference on chest diseases and chest surgery.

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## Jordan Times

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Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

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Facsimile: 661242

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## Black and white, loud and clear

ARE WINDS of change sweeping South Africa, heralding an end to the despicable apartheid practised by the minority whites against the majority blacks? Does this week's release of avowed activists of the African National Congress (ANC) signal a peaceful transition of the system in the country? Or is the release more of a strategy to forestall international sanctions than an actual push towards accepting the inevitability of acknowledging the rights of the blacks in their ancestral land?

These are the obvious questions that are raised in the international scene after the new president, F.W. de Klerk, graciously or otherwise, ended decades of incarceration of eight anti-apartheid activists. For all practical purposes, the assumption of power by de Klerk was welcomed by the international community as a stepping stone towards the recognition of the legitimate political rights of South Africa's blacks. So far, all indications are that he is treading middle ground, without wanting to impart an impression of being seen as breaking ranks with the old guard of Pretoria who cannot simply accept any change in the status quo. The continued detention of Nelson Mandela, the best-known anti-apartheid prisoner in the country, indicates that de Klerk wants to take things easy and gradual. But, sooner or later, he will have to cross that thin borderline and openly state his intentions.

The Commonwealth summit which opened in Kuala Lumpur Wednesday could step in and fill a key slot to convince the old school in South Africa that the international community means business through tightening pressure on Pretoria. The "conservative" (or is it the "stubborn") segment of the white supremacist South African society should be made to realise that it cannot hope to continue to ride on the yoke of oppression forever. For their own good, they should appreciate the reality that what is being eroded as time passes is the chance of peaceful black-white coexistence in their country, which, inevitably, has to make the transition, if not today then tomorrow. As and when it happens, it will be the future of the whites at stake and it will so be judged by the same measure of willingness they displayed to accept the idea of coexistence with equal rights with the blacks. It is no longer a question of ending apartheid, but of how soon and willing are the whites to accept it; this is the message that the Commonwealth leaders have to send to South Africa to boost the hands of the moderates in power there.

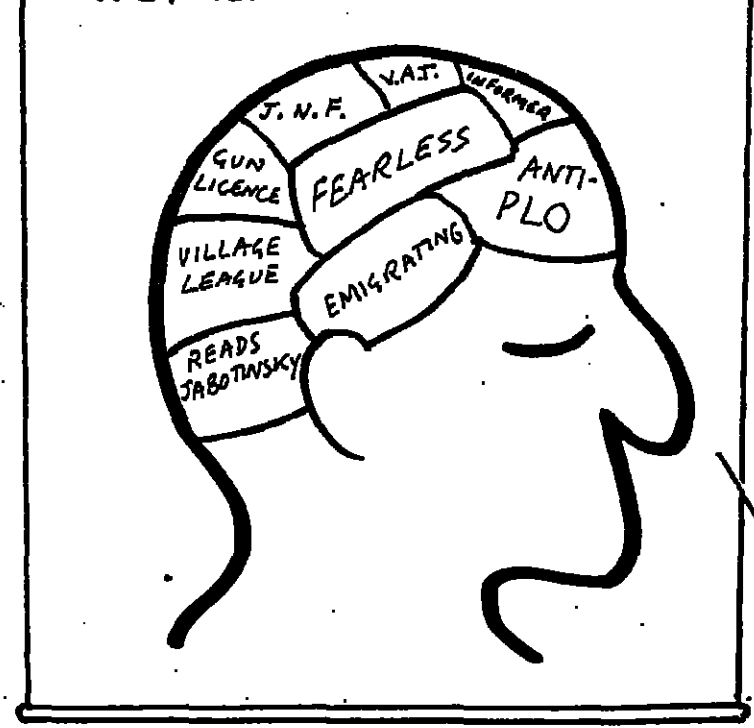
## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday warned of the danger inherent in the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestinian land, an issue raised by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent at a meeting with journalists on Monday. The paper said that 200,000 Jews are to be allowed to leave the Soviet Union, according to a recently disclosed plan, but only 18,000 will find their way to the United States. The bulk of the immigrants will settle in Palestinian land, corroborating Israel's hold over Arab territory and further aggravating the situation in the Middle East region, the paper noted. The sudden addition will no doubt create demographic changes in our region, but most importantly it will present another problem for the Arab Nation in general and Jordan in particular, the paper added. Jordan has been shouldering the brunt of the Palestinian problems since 1948, and has been providing refuge and assistance to the Palestinians, something that was instrumental in exposing the country to the present financial and economic difficulties, the paper continued. It said that new development in Palestine is bound to create further problems and therefore, the Arab World is called on to approach the Soviet Union and find out about the whole question, and discover if Moscow has now changed its position with regard to its ties with the Arab World.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday comments on a press conference by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masarweh in which he explained the government's position with regard to candidates running for the coming parliament. Tareq Masarweh says that he opposes the minister's views about denying a number of candidates the right to be nominated for elections on the ground that they come from tribal or badia regions, and must therefore be nominated in the badia area. The writer says that bedouins in Jordan who are affiliated to the badia region are on the decrease every year as more and more get settled and embark on agricultural projects. In such situation, candidates with badia backgrounds should not be barred from being nominated to run in urban districts, the writer suggests. But Masarweh pays tribute to the government's announcement that no candidate will be denied the right to run on the ground that he or she is affiliated to a political party. The writer notes that this is a very important development, and can only enhance cohesion among the members of the Jordanian family and help bolster the very calm and constructive atmosphere that is now prevailing the election campaign at all levels.

Al Dastour echoed Masarweh's views and said that the minister's announcement brought satisfaction to the Jordanian family in general and the candidates and voters in particular. Jordan has the right to take pride in this announcement since it reflects the country's true democratic life and an image of self-confidence which is prevailing all aspects of life in the country, the paper noted. It said that the minister's promise that the elections will be characterised with integrity and honesty has also served as a tool to strengthen the optimistic atmosphere in the country which is now witnessing a heavy election campaign. The paper said that the minister's statement is bound to help the country attain the best results of the coming parliamentary elections.

## THE ACCEPTABLE PALESTINIAN



## Baker's Middle East policy

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — For nine months, Secretary of State James A. Baker 3rd has been trying to jump-start the Middle East peace process with an approach that forces the parties to the conflict to take the lead and leaves America serving as a catalyst in the background. The next few weeks should determine whether Israelis and Palestinians will latch onto this approach as an original route to change or a novel way to keep things the same.

Mr. Baker's approach is based on several assumptions, the first being that the diplomatic opportunities in the Middle East, as well as the challenges to America's strategic interests there, are very limited. "Ten years ago you had soaring oil prices, the Soviet involvement and the danger of a regional conflict all driving movement in the Middle East," said Steven L. Spiegel, a Middle East expert at U.C.L.A. "Today you have none of those pressures."

Moreover, "before, you had bold risk-takers in Jimmy Carter, Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin," Mr. Spiegel said. "What you have left are survivors: Hosni Mubarak, Yitzhak Shamir, Yasser Arafat and George Bush. You are not going to get bold moves from these gentlemen. The only way to succeed is to out-manipulate these manipulators and out-survive these survivors and Baker has tailored his approach to that end."

Mr. Baker's strategy, administration officials say, also includes the following parties:

First, the parties themselves must come up with an initiative; otherwise they will just sit back and take potshots at Washington's proposals. Second, there can be no peace process without Israel's rightwing Likud Party, which dominates Israeli politics and resists territorial compromise. Third, the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir of Likud, wants to agree to negotiate with Palestinians, provided that his sensitivities about not dealing with the Palestine Liberation Organisation can be assuaged. Fourth, this approach can be pursued with phone calls and does not require a high-profile, politically risky visit to the Middle East by the Secretary of State. Fifth, Egypt can be a buffer for indirect Israeli-Palestinian talks until direct talks are possible.

Although Mr. Baker has managed to prod Mr. Shamir into coming up with a peace initiative of his own, calling for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and later talks with Israel, his strategy is being hotly debated. The most controversial point is whether Mr. Shamir is really willing to implement his own plan, if Mr. Baker will just go the extra mile to meet Likud's conditions for Palestinians to take part. A growing number of analysts believe that in going the extra mile to satisfy Mr. Shamir, Mr. Baker will find himself forever being presented with just one more mile to go.

For instance, on Oct. 6 Mr. Shamir rejected an Egyptian invitation for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo. The invitation was based on an Egyptian-proposed compromise intended to satisfy the Likud leader. The

Egyptians agreed that the Palestinians at these talks would be only from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or Palestinians deported from these areas by Israel, and that the subject would be the Shamir election proposal. The deportees among the Palestinians would tacitly represent the PLO.

When Mr. Shamir rejected this, Mr. Baker suggested that Israel, Egypt and the United States draw up a list of Palestinians who would be acceptable. This put American efforts perilously close to the line between serious diplomacy and farce. Mr. Baker is now negotiating with Egypt and Israel on how to get a dialogue going between them for the purpose of organising a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians for the purpose of organising elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the purpose of electing Palestinian representatives who would negotiate with Israel on an interim settlement.

"Shamir has definitely won Round One with the Bush Administration," said Rashid Khalidi, a Middle East expert at the University of Chicago. "He has gotten them totally tied up in knots, without them even blaming him."

Administration officials understand they can't let this situation continue, but they defend the approach on two grounds. First, what is the alternative? Without Mr. Shamir's cooperation, there is no peace process. Second, if it turns out that Mr. Shamir is not serious, the Administration will make sure of a showdown between him and Washington. But then the administration will need Israel's supporters in Congress. That means giving Mr. Shamir every chance to say yes. But

where is the last milepost?

"Shamir is ready to deal if he can find a Palestinian that no one who is serious thinks really exists," said Stephen P. Cohen, director of the Montreal-based Institute for Middle East Peace and Development, and a person with close ties to Israel's Labour Party. "It is a Palestinian who is willing to do a deal with Israel outside of the authority structure of the PLO, who is ready to enter into negotiations with a Likud government without any assurance that the final outcome will be any different from the interim autonomy arrangements, and who has never engaged in any nationalist activity."

As for Mr. Baker's preference for telephone diplomacy over shuttle diplomacy — he personally has been handling all contacts with his Middle Eastern counterparts over the phone — the main advantage is that he is not tied up for weeks at the expense of more pressing issues like Eastern Europe. And he does not squander his personal authority and credibility trying to bring together parties when they don't appear ready to compromise.

If Mr. Baker's approach ever succeeds in getting the parties together for talks, his involvement could be interesting to watch. Mr. Baker is something of a fox, and in a way both Israelis and Arabs are just a bit afraid of him. He keeps them slightly off balance. He can twist arms and bargain with the best of them. He would not only fit comfortably into the bazaar of Middle Eastern diplomacy, but with the right raw materials, might well be quite effective — The New York Times.

## Donor nations take control of UNHCR

By Claude Regis

Reuter

GENEVA — Major donor nations have taken virtual control of the crisis-hit U.N. organisation which looks after 14 million refugees worldwide, putting a question mark over the future of its chief.

"There has been what you could call a coup d'etat," said a Third World diplomat who attended the annual meeting of the executive committee of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which ended on Friday.

Its controversial head Jean-Pierre Hocke, who is held responsible for increasing costs and low morale among staff, is far from certain of keeping his job, U.N. sources said.

The budget, based mostly on voluntary government contributions, shot up to \$394 million in 1988, from \$281 million two years earlier.

The financial difficulties and fresh controversy surrounding High Commissioner Hocke gave Western nations the excuse they needed to bring both into line, U.N. sources said.

The 43-nation committee, dominated by Western donors such as the United States, the European Community and Japan, has tightened financial surveillance and put the UNHCR budget under control of a governmental working group.

It limited financial commitments to one-half year, drawing complaints from Third World nations that the move would prevent long-term planning for the care of refugees.

The committee slashed this year's budget to less than \$380 million from a planned \$420 mil-

lion. The second tranche of next year's budget of \$414 million will be released only after a review next June on how the first was spent.

Both measures, tantamount to a donor takeover, are unprecedented in the U.N. body's 40-year history and U.N. sources said they reflected a growing lack of confidence in its leadership.

U.N. sources said Hocke himself, under fire following disclosures that he used a secret fund for his and his wife's first-class travels while complaining that the organisation was broke, might be replaced before the end of his term.

The frontrunner for the job is Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, who was already mentioned as a possible successor last year when Hocke's term ended.

The 51-year-old Swiss was confirmed for three more years by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and had U.S. backing despite a U.N. report criticising his high-handedness with staff which it said had seriously affected morale.

Under Hocke, the UNHCR has gone beyond emergency assistance of refugees and has branched out into development schemes in areas with many displaced people.

Donor nations ordered big programme cuts and suggested at the meeting that other U.N. bodies, such as the programme for development, and non-governmental organisations take over some UNHCR activities.

"Basically, donor nations want the UNHCR to restrict its operations to the original mandate it was created for after World War Two — protection of political refugees," a Third World diplo-

mat said.

He said the tightening up also reflected an underlying fear among Western nations that if the present trend went unchecked the UNHCR would eventually extend its action to include millions more fleeing violence or mass human rights violations.

"This split frightening visions of mass invasions in some indus-

trialised countries," he added.

A senior U.N. diplomat said Hocke's fate would depend on whether he was ready to accept a reduced role for himself and the institution.

"Perez de Cuellar may feel that the agency's image has been devalued to the extent that only a new high commissioner can restore its credibility," he added.

By Marcus Eliason  
The Associated Press

LONDON — Last week's annual Conservative Party convention revealed Thatcherism to be in trouble and striving for a kinder, more caring image.

Conservative conventions are traditionally designed less to thrash out policies than to cheer the leader and unite the troops. But this one seemed jinxed.

With the pound sagging and inflation resurgent, interest rates were pushed up to 15 per cent, an eight-year high, just five days before the convention opened in the seaside town of Blackpool.

Then, as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was winding up the convention with a rousing defence of her record, it was announced that the annual inflation rate had crept up from 7.3 to 7.6 per cent.

To compound Conservative worries, the opposition Labour Party has been topping the opinion polls for the past four months with a lead that averages 7 points.

That's normal against a government in mid-term, say Conservative loyalists. But after a decade in the minority, Labour is beginning to look like a credible challenger again.

At Labour's convention the previous week, vote-losing doc-

trines such as unilateral nuclear disarmament were dumped and the party's militant left wing, which had frightened off many voters in the past, was thoroughly sidelined.

Moreover, the centrist bloc, which had helped keep Mrs. Thatcher in power by siphoning votes from Labour, has disintegrated, and Britain is back to straight two-party politics.

None of this means an imminent end to Thatcherism, with its hatred for Socialism, distrust of trade unions and faith in market forces.

No election need be held until mid-1992, and Mrs. Thatcher, who turned 64 on Friday, looked her usual vigorous, combative self.

Even after 10 years in office — an exceptionally long time by British standards — she remains securely in charge, revered by her supporters as the warrior who vanquished the trade unions,

## Here we go again...

By P.V. Vivekanand

THE PENDULUM of the Middle East peace process has swung back to square one once again, this time with the apparent rejection by the Palestinian leadership of American proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks. Regardless of the shortcomings in the U.S. proposal that led to the decision by the Palestine Central Council (PCC) not to take up the offer of talks, another excellent opportunity to call the Israeli bluff has been turned down. If anything, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) did the job for Israel, by absolving the Zionist state of having to take a formal government position on the U.S. proposal. Shamir and company should be feeling relieved.

One of the first questions that come to mind is: what did the PLO stand to lose if it was to explore the American offer? Although the U.S. proposal does not mention the PLO by name, and leaves many loose ends over the composition of a Palestinian delegation to the proposed talks, that should not have discouraged the PLO leaders from adopting the minimum action of exploring the idea further and seeking amendments to their liking. Not that such amendments would have materialised for the asking, but it would have acted as a sounding out board and forced the U.S. administration to adopt certain public postures over its fundamental position in the Arab-Israeli conflict and to draw a bottom line.

There is a multitude of factors that appear to have steered the thinking among PCC members who met in Baghdad Sunday and Monday. It is understandable that any proposal, American, Egyptian, Israeli, Japanese or Fijian, that appears to circumvent the central role of the PLO in the peace process will be rejected outright by the organisation's leaders, whether "moderate," "hardline" or "extremist." But, what appears to be lacking among the PLO leaders, more precisely, the leaders of the various factions, is the mutual trust and confidence to arrive at a unified strategy which will allow the organisation to step forward and accept any challenge on a case-by-case basis. Had the Palestinian atmosphere, at least at the level of the decision-makers, been conducive, then the story today would have been different. The PLO leaders would have been in a firm and strong position to take on any proposal from any quarters and examine its pros and cons in a different light, without having to look over everybody's shoulder among themselves.

A closer look at the PLO scenario will indicate that the only element that everyone agrees on is the ultimate goal: an independent Palestinian state. Agreement is lacking on even the modalities of negotiations through an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Surely, the Palestinians do not expect the West Bank and Gaza to be delivered to them in a silver platter. It is elementary that painstaking efforts have to be undertaken to bring about political negotiations. It has to start somewhere. But, every proposal that has been tabled since the PLO switched into moderation has come to a grinding halt before getting anywhere simply because of rejection by one or the other of the two sides to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In more ways than one, outright Palestinian rejections of ideas floated by other parties, whether American, Egyptian or Israeli, owe their origins to the disarray in the ranks of the PLO leadership. Some might call it democracy at work, but the fact remains that leaders of hardline factions do not trust the mainstream leadership to do a good job resisting "Zionist-imperialist schemes" and are even afraid that the leadership, perhaps out of sheer despair, might "sign on the dotted line" as indicated by the Americans and Israelis.

To be fair, there can be no denial of the possibility that if the PLO were to agree that a non-PLO team, with Israel wielding veto power over its composition, could enter talks with Israeli delegates it could have set a dangerous precedent in diluting the PLO's representative status and, more important, could have led to deep splits between the Palestinians living inside the occupied territories and those in the diaspora. But, the PLO also has the option to call off such dialogue at the first sign of insincerity of the parties sitting across the table.

Furthermore, the feeling appears to be getting stronger among Palestinian ranks that the PLO is being taken for a ride by the Americans through the much-heralded "dialogue" in Tunis. But, if indeed the situation is so, it is incumbent upon the PLO leaders to put a brake on the ride and ask the Americans: "Where are we going?"

Could there be a better opportunity to do so than exploring an American idea and letting the Americans concede that the ride is going nowhere?

There is little doubt that the PLO leadership is betting on the intifada to escalate and push the Israelis further to the wall, generating increased awareness among the Israeli public of the dire need to address the situation. One of the bets is also the possibility that the shaky "national unity" coalition in Israel will break up over the Likud-Labour differences on the peace process. But what seems to have been overlooked in Baghdad this week is that it was upto the PLO to force the Israeli hand and seek to bring about a Likud-Labour "showdown"; it could only have materialised if the PLO was to pick up the American proposal and throw it back to the Israeli court.

Needless to say, the Israelis were so assured that nothing positive could come out of the Baghdad meeting that they did not feel any need to launch any internal debate of the American proposal simply because they knew very well that the PLO leaders could not agree on the Washington offer and let the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the U.S. discuss the next step.

So, where do the Palestinians go from here? Sit back and relax until the next "opportunity" comes along, only to reject it because they can't get their act together? Well, that seems to be the answer, unless of course the PLO leadership turn inwards and build that mutual confidence and trust among themselves to confront every situation with a united voice and strategy. Until then, they will have to put up the ongoing song and dance number over Palestinian representation.

## Thatcherism in trouble, looking for change

years of Mrs. Thatcher's harsh medicine, inflation and high interest rates are still around.

"Many people are feeling rather let down," delegate Peter Brown said. "They are rather upset that after 10 years of Conservative rule we should have got into these rather difficult times."

In the longer term, the convention was significant for the signals it sent out that Thatcherism itself is preparing for change.

Speakers seemed at pains to present a more compassionate brand of politics, even though that implies spending more taxpayers' money on public services and would have been regarded with suspicion by Thatcherite purists.

There was an unexpected government pledge of £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) to cushion Britons against an unpopular new property tax.

Mrs. Thatcher assured delegates that the cherished National Health Service was not going to be "privatised" on American lines, as some had feared. An expected promise to sell off the state-owned railroads never materialised.

The volatile issue of Britain's place in a united Europe failed to stir any fires. Promises to protect the environment and enhance the quality of life got big cheers.



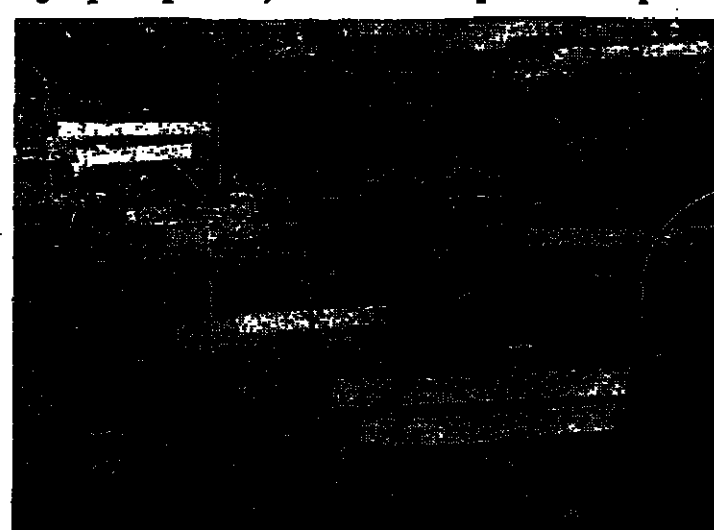
654 candidats pour les premières Législatives en 22 ans

# Elections, la voie des urnes

Seuls sept dossiers ont été rejetés mardi à l'issue des trois jours d'enregistrement des candidatures aux élections générales du 8 novembre. Un seul retrait ayant été annoncé jusqu'à présent, 654

Jordanais se retrouvent en campagne pour accéder aux 80 sièges de la Chambre des députés et pour convaincre 1,2 million d'électeurs, dont bon nombre n'ont pas voté depuis 1967.

Parole tenue. En annonçant mardi qu'aucun candidat à la candidature n'aurait été rejeté pour raison d'affiliation à un parti ou groupe illégal, le ministre de l'Intérieur a démenti ce que le souverain et le gouvernement avaient honoré leur promesse de ne pas user du paragraphe E de l'article 18 de la loi électorale. « Cette décision reflète le souhait (...) exprimé par sa majesté le roi Hussein de permettre à tous les Jordanais, sans exception, d'exprimer leur droit de vote (...) sous l'égide de la constitution », a notamment déclaré Salem Mans'adah.



Les banneroles et les caligons ont fleuri dans les rues dès l'ouverture de la campagne, samedi.

De nombreux juristes considèrent l'atmosphère de l'Etat à l'égard de ce fameux amendement, adopté en 1966, comme un « état » de sa volonté d'autoriser ou non un véritable scrutin démocratique. « Est illégal, selon cet article, tout parti ou toute organisation dont les principes, les objectifs et les finalités sont en contradiction avec la constitution, explique un candidat de l'opposition. C'est une définition suffisamment floue pour laisser les malins totalement libres au pouvoir ».

Des 654 dossiers soumis aux huit gouvernements du royaume, seuls sept ont finalement été écartés pour « vice de procédures », a précisé avant-hier le ministre de l'Intérieur. Trois candidats, appartenant à des tribus bédouines, se sont ainsi vu refuser le droit de se présenter hors des régions où vivent leurs communautés d'origine.

Bien que Masboud Hadidheh, Naif Khreisha et Tash al-Qadi aient engagé un recours devant la cour d'appel, dont le verdict sera connu le 25 octobre, il est peu probable qu'ils obtiennent gain de cause. « En tant que Bédouins, ils ne peuvent prétendre à un siège hors des deux circonscriptions qui leur sont réservées. Même s'ils ont pu, individuellement, travailler à Amman ou Irbid », précise l'avocat Nabil Hadidheh.

Trois autres exclus de la course à la députation ont dû renoncer faute de posséder la nationalité jordanienne depuis 10 ans, comme l'exige la loi. Ainsi de Nimr Sirhan al-Tamimi, palestinien de Cisjordanie, titulaire

d'un passeport jordanien depuis 1967, et candidat à la candidature dans la cinquième circonscription d'Amman. Dans le dernier cas, le rejet a été motivé par le passé judiciaire du candidat. « Il est en effet interdit à tout individu condamné à une peine de plus d'un an de prison pour un délit de droit commun de se présenter aux élections », explique Nabil Hadidheh.

## Les règles du jeu

Si la loi de 1966 se révèle précise sur les conditions formelles à remplir par les candidats, les règles du jeu électoral prêtent parfois à confusion. En ont témoigné les trois premiers jours de la campagne officielle, au cours desquels ont fleuri caligons, tracts et cartes de visite, alors qu'aucun candidat n'était encore désigné.

Présenté comme un moment de « liberté offerte à tous » par le ministre de l'Intérieur, ce décalage pour le moins surprenant a permis aux plus

rapides de planter leurs banneroles aux endroits stratégiques. « On a aussi vu des gens, qui ne se présentent pas, se faire beaucoup de publicités », assure Nabil Hadidheh.

Sans ou non d'obtenir la validation de leurs dossiers, les candidats et leurs supporters se sont jetés dans la bataille. Objectif : arriver en 25 jours à sortir du lot et à toucher le plus d'électeurs possible. Mission d'autant plus urgente que dans certaines circonscriptions, on trouve plus d'une cinquantaine de prétendants à cinq ou huit sièges de députés.

Si le ministre de l'Intérieur a logiquement choisi de fermer la télévision et la radio à la campagne électorale, faute de pouvoir satisfaire tout le monde, libre à chacun de trouver les meilleurs supports ou la meilleure comédie. Les journaux ont ainsi été pris d'assaut par ceux dont le portefeuille permet de faire face à des tarifs, que les quotidiens n'ont pas hésités à augmenter de 50 % en moyenne, peu avant le 14 octobre.

D'autres, sinon les mêmes, ont offert des banquets panoramiques de 50 à 150 convives. Certains ont pris

leur bâton de pèlerin, tel ce jeune candidat d'Amman, distribuant dans les maternités bonquets de fleurs et cartes de visite à quelque 70 jeunes mères ainsi qu'à un personnel médical. Malgré le peu de chance qu'ont les candidats pauvres de pouvoir rivaliser avec leurs adversaires riches ou notoirement connus, les autorités se refusent à toute intervention dans les moyens utilisés au cours de la campagne. Le ministre de l'Intérieur se cantonne ainsi à faire respecter le calme et la bienséance des propos échangés dans les débats publics (voir encadré). Soucieux d'éviter tout dérapage, il a notamment prohibé le port d'arme dans l'ensemble du royaume et suspendu tous les permis jusqu'au 9 novembre au moins.

« Nous avons surtout un gros travail d'information à faire », soutient-on au gouvernement. Il est vrai qu'aucune élection de cette envergure n'a été organisée depuis 22 ans, et que nombre de Jordanais se retrouvent perdus dans le mode de scrutin uninominal, ignorant parfois qu'ils auront plusieurs députés à élire dans leur circonscription. L'autre grande inconnue étant la faible proportion d'inscrits ayant retiré leur carte d'électeur. Lundi, ils n'étaient en effet que 554.371 sur 1.200.000 à l'avoir fait.

Reste le scrutin lui-même. 20.000 fonctionnaires et policiers, répartis dans quelque 2.000 bureaux de vote, seront chargés de veiller, ce qui se révèle dans une atmosphère libre et bouillonnante, à déclarer mardi Salem Mans'adah. Ils assisteront, de 7h00 à 19h00, les magistrats responsables des urnes et du dépouillement. Un dépouillement que le ministre de l'Intérieur espère suffisamment rapide pour annoncer les premiers résultats dans les 24 heures. « C'est un cauchemar, nous avons vu à la télévision qu'il y a du désordre, regrette-t-il, ce qui ne nous permettra pas, par exemple, de calculer le nombre de votes blancs ou nuls ».

Sonia Katalani et Alain Rouen.

## Entre loi martiale et constitution "Un code de bonne conduite"

Organisées en un temps record, les élections législatives du 8 novembre réenclenchent un processus de vie démocratique, en somme depuis 22 ans. Informer les électeurs et définir les règles du jeu, entre loi martiale et constitution, constituent les principales tâches du gouvernement, explique au « Jourdain » le ministre de l'Intérieur, Salem Mans'adah.

Le Jourdain : Certains électeurs restent perplexes qu'ils ne pourront voter que pour les candidats de leur confession ou de leur communauté, le 8 novembre. Le gouvernement envisage-t-il une campagne d'information civique pour expliquer très précisément les règles des scrutins ?

Salem Mans'adah : Nous avons lancé une campagne dès mardi par voie d'affiches, à la radio, à la télévision, et surtout dans les journaux, pour expliquer le mode de scrutin et le déroulement des élections. Par ailleurs, le jour même du vote, il y aura devant chaque urne des notices, informant les électeurs de leurs droits et précisant notamment le nombre de députés musulmans, chrétiens, circassiens, à élire.

L.J. : Le très faible nombre de votants après avoir retiré leurs cartes d'électeur, disponibles depuis un mois, ne vous inquiète-t-il pas ?

S.M. : Il est vrai que la distribution des cartes d'électeur ne s'effectue malheureusement pas assez vite. Nous savons que dans plusieurs circonscriptions, 20 % seulement des cartes ont été retirées, alors qu'il ne reste que deux semaines pour le faire. C'est pourquoi nous avons décidé de concentrer une partie de notre campagne d'information sur ce problème précis.

L.J. : Que répondez-vous aux candidats qui estiment que les semaines de campagne électorale ne leur permettent pas de se faire suffisamment connaître du public ?

S.M. : Que c'est la loi. C'est elle qui fixe à 25 jours la durée de la campagne officielle. Ce qui est, à mon avis, suffisant.

L.J. : Les journaux ont augmenté en moyenne leurs tarifs publicitaires de 50 %. L'Etat devrait-il intervenir ?

pour garantir à tous les candidats les mêmes moyens d'expression ?

S.M. : La loi électorale limite le rôle de l'Etat à la définition du cadre et de la nature de la campagne. Nous n'exposons donc aucune surveillance sur les dépenses engagées et sur les moyens matériels utilisés. Par contre, nous avons interdit aux candidats de mettre plus d'une annonce par journal ou d'occuper plus d'une demi-page.

L.J. : Craignez-vous des abus électoralistes ? Nombre de candidats ont commencé leur campagne trois jours avant la validation des candidatures...

S.M. : Ils l'ont fait sous leur propre responsabilité. Nous aurons pu les en empêcher. Mais le gouvernement préfère n'intervenir que s'il le faut vraiment.

L.J. : C'est à dire ?

S.M. : La loi définit un code de bonne conduite, interdisant par exemple d'attaquer un adversaire. Si les candidats ne le respectent pas, dans leurs affiches ou les débats qu'ils organisent, nous les sanctionnerons sans hésiter.

L.J. : Quelles garanties offrez-vous aux candidats alors que la loi martiale reste en vigueur ?

S.M. : La loi martiale, je vous le dis la conscience tranquille, n'a été utilisée que dans un cadre général, qui touche le bien du pays. Jamais, nous ne l'avons mise en application contre les libertés individuelles. C'est dans cet esprit que se déroulent les élections, même si nous vivons encore sous les lois d'exception.

Propos recueillis par S.K. et A.R.

## EN BREF

**RFA-OLP.** La République fédérale d'Allemagne a officiellement pris contact lundi à Bonn avec l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine. Le secrétaire d'Etat ouest-allemand Jürgen Sudhoff s'est entretenu avec Bassam Abou Sharif, proche conseiller de Yasser Arafat. Tout en rappelant « l'attachement indéfectible [de la RFA] au principe du droit à l'existence d'Israël », le gouvernement d'Helmut Kohl a justifié cette première rencontre en soulignant « l'attitude mesurée » de l'OLP dans le conflit israëlo-arabe. Cette décision a été qualifiée de « déplorables » par Tel Aviv le jour même.

**Afrique du Sud.** Walter Sisulu, 77 ans, ancien secrétaire général du Congrès national africain (ANC) a été libéré dimanche en compagnie de sept autres militants politiques noirs par les autorités sud-africaines après plus de 26 ans de détention. Lundi, la Ligue arabe a appelé la communauté internationale à faire pression sur Pretoria pour obtenir la libération de Nelson Mandela, leader de l'ANC, au moment même où le gouvernement de l'apartheid annonçait être disposé à engager des négociations directes et sans conditions avec cette organisation clandestine.

**Attentat.** Le directeur du service de comptabilité de l'ambassade d'Arabie Saoudite à Ankara a perdu ses deux jambes dans un attentat, lundi dernier. Abdurrahman Shirewi, 32 ans, a été blessé par une bombe à retardement, placée dans sa voiture et qui a explosé alors que le diplomate se trouvait au volant.

**Ariane.** Le 34e lancement de la fusée européenne Ariane aura lieu dans la nuit du 27 au 28 octobre depuis la base de Kourou en Guyane française. Ariane doit placer sur orbite géostationnaire le très gros satellite de télécommunications international Intelsat-6 F2.

**Faux.** La police française vient de procéder à la plus importante saisie jamais réalisée dans l'Hexagone d'objets d'art contrefaits. Au terme d'une enquête de huit mois, les policiers ont trouvé, au domicile d'un restaurateur d'art et revendeur d'objets anciens de la banlieue parisienne, plus d'une vingtaine de contrefaçons de bronzes de Rodin, Renoir, Daumier, Bourdelle, Gauguin Barye et Pompon.

**Immigration.** La section française de l'association arabe des droits de l'Homme (ASADH) a dénoncé dimanche à Paris « la privation de droits dont continue de souffrir l'immigration arabe en France », à l'occasion de sa troisième assemblée générale. Dans son rapport, l'ASADH estime que les « problèmes et les obstacles qui surgissent chaque fois que des immigrés projettent de construire ou d'aménager une mosquée ou une salle de prière », illustrent cette discrimination.

**Plagiat.** Un écrivain chypriote vient d'accuser Umberto Eco d'avoir « copié » dans l'un de ses propres livres la trame du best-seller international, « Le Nom de la rose » et lui réclame près de 5 millions de dollars de dédommagement. L'affaire a éclaté quand le livre, récemment traduit en grec, est tombé entre les mains du président de l'union des écrivains chypriotes, Kostas Sakratos, qui y a « reconnu » l'un de ses romans, « Aphronismenos », paru en 1984.

## A L'AFFICHE

### CINEMA

**Amadeus**, de Milos Forman, avec F. Schiffer, F. Murray Abraham, Tom Hulce et Elisabeth Berridge. L'histoire (romancée) de la vie de Mozart et de la jalousie de Salieri, compositeur de cour détrôné par le jeune prodige... Centre américain, jeudi 19 et dimanche 22 octobre à 19h00 (en anglais).

### EXPOSITIONS

**La Maison assassinée**, de Georges Lantier, avec Patrick Bruel et Anne Brocher (1988). De retour dans son village après la première guerre mondiale, Séraphin découvre peu à peu l'horrible vérité sur la mort de ses parents, que tous les habitants cherchent à oublier. Centre culturel royal, jeudi 19 octobre à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe). 1 dinar; deux-tiers pour les étudiants.

**L'Aleph** de del diamanti, de Tommaso Dazzi, avec Philippe Leroy et Gianni Cavina. Aventure... Hays arts centre, jeudi 19 octobre à 19h00 (en italien).

### TELEVISION

**Ciné-club.** Séances à 14h00, 16h00, 18h00, 20h00. Projection pour les jeunes jeudi à 16h00; nouveau film, lundi à 20h00, pour les membres du club.

**Jedi 19:** Les Chariots de feu; Tropic line 0; Contar force; Unsettled land; After the for.

**Vendredi 20:** L'Archer et le sorcier; Blazing saddles; Les Diamants du Nil; Still the sky; You can't win them all.

**Samedi 21:** Carry on Cleo; Moonraker; Blade runner; Cocoon; Hanna K.

**Dimanche 22:** Evil under the sun; Le Désert des Tartares; Code name: Soldier.

## Solution des mots croisés

(Grille des 12-13 octobre)

**Horizontalement.** 1: désarmement. 2: roulerais. 3: Anesses. 4: da; iambe. 5: écolière. 6: té; léger. 7: is; sènes. 8: quète; tris. 9: usuels; chu. 10: lésées.

**Verticalement.** A: dramatique. B: éon; chus. C: Sédre; seul. D: Alsace; tee Et mes; sels. F: oreille; se. G: rassient. H: ci; mégères. I: es; Brésil. J: réer; sue.

## Au secours des oasis du Maghreb

### Le palmier-dattier éprouvete

La culture in vitro du palmier-dattier devient une priorité pour les pays du Maghreb, dont les oasis ont été décimées par le bayoud, un champignon parasite dévastateur.

Née en Egypte il y a environ 7000 ans, la culture du palmier-dattier est évaluée dans le monde à 100 millions d'arbres, produisant un tonne de quel que 2 millions de tonnes de fruits par an. Une production dont le Maghreb assure à lui seul près de 20 %, avec plus de 20 millions de palmiers recensés.

A la fin du siècle dernier, le Maroc figurait au troisième rang mondial des pays producteurs. Aujourd'hui, avec moins de 5 millions d'arbres, le royaume doit procéder à des importations de plants. Les deux-tiers de ses plantiers ont en effet été détruits par l'homme, l'envahisseur du désert, et surtout par le bayoud.

Ce champignon parasite attaque qui plus est les meilleures espèces de palmiers. Apparu au début du siècle au Maroc, il s'est rapidement propagé vers l'Algérie et fait peser une sérieuse menace sur les principaux pays producteurs que sont la Tunisie, le Soudan et l'Egypte.

La maladie, qui au Maroc anéantit 150.000 à 200.000 plants chaque année, apporte avec elle un cortège de désolations. La destruction progressive d'une palmeraie modifie notamment le micro-climat qui y règne, favorable aux cultures sous-

jacantes et à l'élevage. Elle provoque à terme l'exode des habitants des régions arides et semi-arides, auxquelles les palmiers-dattiers fournissent environ deux-tiers des revenus.

La datte n'est pas seulement le fruit que l'on offre avec le lait, en signe de bienvenue, ou avec lequel on rompt le jeûne pendant le Ramadan Elle constitue l'aliment essentiel des hommes du désert. La consommation de dattes par an et par habitant atteint par exemple 6 kilos au Maroc ou au Soudan et 29 kilos en Arabie Saoudite.

Les tentatives de lutte chimique contre le bayoud se sont révélées sans effet. C'est pourquoi la recherche s'est orientée en 1984 au Maroc vers des programmes de développement de cultures en laboratoire. Cultiver in vitro des tiges adultes de palmiers permet d'obtenir plusieurs milliers de plants identiques, à partir d'un seul arbre.

Les succès enregistrés ces dernières années ont permis aux agronomes du Maghreb d'envisager un programme ambitieux, qui va de la reconstitution des oasis atteintes par le bayoud à la plantation dans une région de 10 millions de palmiers avant l'an 2000. (D'après agences).

## A savoir

A partir du mois de novembre, le Jourdain change de jour de parution. Vous retrouverez la page en français dans l'édition du SAMEDI et non plus du JEUDI.

## Myopathie: un cas unique en Jordanie

### Condamné à mourir jeune

Il y a quelques années encore, personne n'en parlait. La myopathie, qui touche un enfant sur cent mille dans le monde, est pourtant une maladie mortelle. En France, il a fallu une émission de télévision de 24 heures, l'an dernier, pour sensibiliser le public à un mal incurable, qui détruit les muscles et face auquel la médecine demeure impuissante. Une impuissance que vit au jour le jour Maher, 11 ans, seul cas recensé jusqu'à présent en Jordanie.

C'est par une journée très chaude de l'été 1978 que Maher voit le jour à l'hôpital de Salt. Son poids est normal et aucun signe particulier n'inquiète ses parents. Le diagnostic médical est formel: R.A.S., bébé normal de sexe masculin.

Jusqu'à l'âge de 4 ans, Maher vit une enfance heureuse et sans encombre. Il sort dans la rue, court, prend part à tous les jeux de ses camarades. A 5 ans, c'est l'école. Les premiers mois, c'est un plaisir. Puis une fatigue, spontanée, commence à le rendre plus hésitant. Même son cartable lui semble très lourd. Pour monter la moindre marche, le voilà obligé de pousser sa main sur son genou.

Ces signes répétés avaient attiré l'attention de ses parents. « On pensait alors à un excès d'exercices physiques », car Maher adorait courir et se dépensait généralement lors des parties de football avec ses copains, expliquent-ils. Mais pour en avoir le coeur net, on l'a conduit chez un médecin, qui à l'époque nous rassura. Il s'agissait, selon lui, de rhumatismes articulaires dus aux anguilles. On les lui a donc enlevés.

L'année suivante, Maher a pourtant le geste plus lent et éprouve de plus en plus de mal à se déplacer. Son état s'aggrave, au point de lui faire perdre l'équilibre dès qu'il bute sur le

moindre obstacle. Il y a 4 ans, il se retrouve incapable de bouger sans l'aide d'une tierce personne. Ses chutes deviennent plus fréquentes. Ses frères le portent sur leur dos pour l'emmener à l'école. Les plaisanteries et les railleries de ses camarades de classe lui rendent cependant les cours insupportables. Ses parents décident de le garder à la maison, où tout le monde prend soin de lui.

A 8 ans, Maher est définitivement « différent » de ses copains: il n'a plus à l'école. « Depuis que le médecin nous a révélé la gravité de sa maladie, je ne dors plus, dit sa mère en sanglotant. Je ne fais que des cauchemars. Toutes les nuits, je me réveille avec une tête des images atroces. Je m'arrive pas à croire que mon fils soit condamné à jamaiss ».

Maher est en effet atteint d'un mal très rare, entraînant la mort à la fin de la puberté, comme l'explique le docteur Adnan Abulail, neurologue à Amman: « La myopathie est une maladie qui se manifeste chez l'enfant à partir de 4 ou 5 ans, par des difficultés à se mouvoir. Une ou deux années plus tard, le malade ne peut plus marcher, ni se tenir debout et peine même à lever les bras. A l'âge de 14 ou 15 ans, les voies respiratoires se détériorent et le muscle cardiaque n'arrive plus à fonctionner normale-

ment, d'où la mort avant 20 ans. Jusqu'à présent, il n'existe aucun traitement efficace. On ne peut que retarder l'issue fatale de quelques années ».

La famille de Maher continue malgré tout d'espérer. Ses quatre frères et sœurs sont catégoriques: « En 1988, nous avons vu à la JTV une émission scientifique sur la maladie de notre frère. On y parlait de médecins américains, qui ont mis au point un vaccin capable d'arrêter l'évolution dévastatrice de la maladie. Dans peu de temps ce vaccin sera disponible dans nos hôpitaux ».

Son père, Mahmoud, ne cesse pour sa part de se rassurer pour améliorer les conditions de vie de Maher. Chaque fois, il se heurte à une bureaucratie insurmontable. « Je voulais inscrire mon fils dans une école pour handicapés moteurs du septième cercle de Djebel Amman mais mes moyens financiers ne me le permettent pas. Ça coûtait 40 dinars par mois et, chaque week-end il fallait le ramener à la maison ».

Toutefois, Maher s'adresse alors au centre spécialisé de Salt. Sans plus de succès: l'école n'admet pas ce « genre » d'enfant, parfaitement apte à suivre une scolarité normale mais totalement dépendant. Désolée, la directrice de l'établissement conseille au père de Maher de se procurer une chaise roulante pour lui donner une semi-autonomie.

« Je suis venu au bureau des Affaires sociales le jour même, poursuit-il. On m'y a harcelé de questions presque pollicaires: salaire; situation familiale; est-il vrai que j'ai un enfant handicapé?... Bref, une tonne de questions pour qu'enfin une commission d'enquête se rende dans mon



quartier et se renseigne auprès de mes voisins de la véracité de mes propos ».

Mahmoud n'est malheureusement pas au bout de ses surprises. Dans son rapport, la commission conclut qu'il n'entre pas dans la catégorie des « ayant-droit ». Motif: le père de Maher gagne bien sa vie et possède une voiture. « J'ai en bout leur expliquer que je suis en chômage depuis quatre ans, que la voiture en question est une vieille Renault 12, et que c'est ma femme qui subvient aux besoins de la famille grâce à son tricot, ils ont refusé ».

Loins de toutes ces tracasseries, assis sur le divan qui lui sert également de lit, Maher admire sa modestie collection d'autos miniatures et feuillette passionnément, bien que difficilement, quelques vieux « Auto-Journal » que son cousin lui a rapportés du Koweït. Sa voiture préférée: une Rover, à 4 roues motrices.

Hanafi Siliarbi.

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**Jordan Times'**  
**JORDAN MARKET PLACE**



# RJ repays \$192m debt

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline has sold its fleet of aeroplanes to repay debt and now only owns two of its aeroplanes — a Tri Star and a Boeing.

According to Hussam Abu Ghazaleh, director-general of the airlines, RJ was able to repay a debt of \$192 million by selling these aeroplanes.

At a press conference held at the Plaza Hotel Wednesday, Abu Ghazaleh explained that RJ originally bought five aeroplanes but did not have the money to pay for them "so the installments and the interest on these aeroplanes were very large."

RJ took a two-day loan from a conglomerate of banks, paid the full price of the aeroplanes to gain full ownership and then sold them and rented them back. "The fact that the value of the dinar decreased after this deal was completed saved RJ many expenses," he noted.

Abu Ghazaleh stressed that such practices were being followed in many countries around the world and cited Gulf Air and Cathay Pacific as examples.

"In view of the very high costs of aeroplanes it is now becoming common practice to rent aeroplanes rather than buying them," Abu Ghazaleh said.

He further explained that RJ has made a deal whereby it would pay rent on the aeroplanes for 12 years and then "we would pay one dollar and gain ownership of the planes."

He declined answering a question on the budget of RJ until the final budget is approved by the board of directors and the cabinet. But he said that RJ does have a debt of JD 29 million to Jordan's petroleum corporation, "and there are plans now to pay this debt as soon as possible."

But he maintained that RJ cannot be assessed by the standards of a losing or profit making organisation "because we have certain advantages and assets which we can assess according to

their financial value." "The right to transport to certain areas, for example, have a monetary value," Abu Ghazaleh said.

He said that the new management has taken steps to "adapt to the new economic realities in the Kingdom" by halting their flight routes to Los Angeles, Miami and Athens as well as limiting the number of RJ employees in the United States offices.

According to Abu Ghazaleh, RJ will continue to support tourism to the Kingdom and will step up its efforts by training employees in offices outside the Kingdom "to answer questions on tourism in Jordan."

"We consider our offices outside the country tourism offices and we want to develop them further," Abu Ghazaleh added noting that RJ will endeavour to support projects within the Kingdom which would enhance tourism such as contributing to the establishment of hotels in tourist areas like the sea port of Aqaba and commercial land transportation.

"This industry (tourism) is immediately connected to our work and would enrich our business," Abu Ghazaleh said.



Hussam Abu Ghazaleh, director-general of Royal Jordanian.

He added that the new management has introduced a "Meet the Management" programme whereby top executives in RJ would visit the different depart-

ments within RJ and talk to employees and listen to their problems and suggestions.

But Abu Ghazaleh said that RJ does not have any plans to raise the salaries of its employees at this time "but we are studying ways to provide them with more services."

# Food subsidies cost Third World \$26b

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said Tuesday that the agricultural policies of the United States, the European Community and Japan was costing the developing world \$26 billion a year in lost income.

In a speech at the United States, Yeutter also said a preoccupation with the environment should not be used as an excuse to neglect scientific advances in food production.

"To view all use of agricultural chemicals as harmful, or to view advances in biotechnology with irrational suspicion — as is now being promoted in some quarters — makes no sense at all," he said in an appeal for improved agricultural technology.

Yeutter, who spoke at ceremonies commemorating World Food Day, said industrialised nations have an array of food subsidies and barriers that raise production at home and reduce world commodities prices.

"Now, I ask you, all the developed countries of the world, which would be better? To help the developing countries with \$26 billion in aid or to help the developing countries with \$26 billion in trade corrections? he said."

The head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said earlier that modern agriculture had become a fearsome agent of environmental destruction as well as one of its main victims.

FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma said mankind

had caused unprecedented degradation of soil, water and air by failing to respect the balance of the environment and using huge amounts of chemicals.

"Doping has been relentlessly pursued in the sports world, and yet mankind continues its lethal self-poisoning as we systematically and freely dope the very plants and animals that are our only source of food, Saouma said in a speech.

"At the very time when the big nations of the world are finally contemplating the prospect of abolishing chemical weapons, we are waging a senseless and total chemical war on nature," he said.

"The challenge is clear," he added. "We must find ways to grow more food without draining the soil of its fertility, to raise more livestock without turning grazing land into wasteland, and harvest more fish without robbing the waters of their life."

Saouma said that world production was giving rise to food surpluses but 500 million people still did not have enough to eat.

French Agriculture Minister Henri Nallet said that the threat to the environment was the issue that had finally forced both rich and poor countries to realise they must act together to save the world.

He said the slogan "there is only one earth" encapsulated the increasing awareness that "beyond their geographical, cultural and political differences people... collectively responsible for this planet whose limited resources they share."

# Wall Street weathers quake

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street stocks shrugged off the California earthquake and rose slightly Wednesday as the market cleared a new test of its ability to hold up after its Friday-the-13th plunge.

After initially falling nearly 20 points, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.89 points to 2,642.62 by 11 a.m. (1500 GMT). Advances led declines 6-5 on New York Stock Exchange volume of 56 million shares.

The San Francisco quake, which took a grim toll with more than 270 deaths, was expected to create big financial costs and some had feared a sharp reaction in the market.

"The quake was not an economic U.S. disaster and selling is emotional. However, it's a nervous market," one trader said as prices fell at first.

Stocks of insurance companies and some California-based concerns were weakened by the news of the quake, which appeared

likely to leave damage in the billions of dollars.

But traders here said the market saw no broad-based economic troubles due to the disaster. And some stocks of building materials concerns were in demand.

Some traders in other global markets had feared that the quake might topple a New York market already tipsy from Friday's 190-point plunge and an unexpectedly bad U.S. trade report Tuesday.

Dealers said the dollar, which eased to 1.8505 Deutschmarks from 1.8660 Tuesday, was pressured by the earthquake, but also by a report early in the day that U.S. housing starts had fallen to a seven-year low in September, with an unexpected 5.2 per cent drop.

The housing starts report added to the recent body of evidence of a weakening U.S. economy, demonstrated most con-

vincingly with a 31 per cent surge in the trade deficit to \$10.8 billion for August. This led to an 18.65-point drop in the Dow industrials Tuesday.

The housing report again lifted the government bond market, which has been gaining on the view that the Federal Reserve,

the U.S. central bank, will ease interest rates to keep the economy afloat.

The prospect of pipeline damage from the California earthquake raised European oil prices Wednesday, although prices eased here later to stand unchanged.



# Publi-Graphics holds advanced media workshop

AMMAN (J.T.) — Publi-Graphics, the Middle East's leading advertising agency, recently held an advanced Media Strategy Workshop at the Hyatt Regency, Dubai. The intensive 3-day programme was attended by Media Managers and senior Account Executives from various Publi-Graphics branches including Jeddah, Riyadh, Dubai, Kuwait and London.

Specially flown down for the workshop, a prominent London Media Director provided valuable insight on all aspects of Media Strategy Development. In depth discussions via case studies served to highlight the importance of using advanced Media Strategies and Media Selection for increased effectiveness.

The workshop also concentrated on the latest Media evaluation techniques used internationally and already in use at Publi-Graphics for the entire Middle East.

With regard to new developments taking place in advertising in the Middle East the group also discussed the media planning techniques used in London and their relevance to the Middle East market.

# Bad news darken Philippine economy

MANILA (AP) — The Philippines posted a balance of payments deficit of \$200 million for the first five months of the year after a surplus during the same period in 1988, the government has announced.

It was the third dose of bad economic news reported by the government. It earlier said economic growth was slowing down and that inflation was increasing.

In the latest report, the central bank said the balance of payments deficit would have mushroomed to \$696 million except for the rescheduling of some of the country's foreign debts.

During the first five months of last year, the government reported a balance of payments surplus of \$123 million.

The government blamed the deficit largely on an increase in current account deficit from \$200 million in the first five months of 1988 to \$637 million during the same period this year.

An increase in import payments for goods and services was responsible for widening the current account deficit, the bank said.

Imports for the first five months amounted to \$4,043 billion, while exports reached \$3,088 billion, the bank said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Wednesday October 18, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
Buy	Sell	French franc	99.2	100.2	
U.S. dollar	627.0	632.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	441.1	445.5
Pound Sterling	990.5	1000.9	Dutch guilder	298.8	301.8
Deutschmark	337.4	340.8	Swedish crown	97.1	98.1
Swiss franc	384.5	388.3	Italian lira (for 100)	45.8	46.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	126.9	128.5

# WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A major earthquake in San Francisco unnerved an already jittery Australian share market which retreated amid concerns about Wall Street's direction Wednesday. The All Ordinaries Index closed 33.4 down at 1,629.2.

TOKYO — Wary investors with an eye on the dollar let the Tokyo index float up slowly on Tuesday's momentum to close broadly higher. The Nikkei climbed 111.48 to 35,107.56.

HONG KONG — Nervous local investors sold stocks ahead of the New York opening on expected falls in insurance stocks after the U.S. earthquake. The Hang Seng index fell 67.35 points to 2,628.55.

SINGAPORE — The market closed easier across the board, but above the day's lows on late short-covering and some bargain-hunting. The Straits Times industrial index fell 31.61 points to 1,310.22.

BOMBAY — Share prices rebounded on heavy buying by state-owned investment trusts after Tuesday's slump. Tata Steel, Nocl and Voltas firmed 35 rupees to 1,210.

FRANKFURT — Prices of major German shares ended an extended bourse session higher as trade returned to normal after two days of turbulence. The Dax index ended 15.70 points up at 1,491.14.

ZURICH — The all-share performance index gained 6.5 points to 1,122.37 but insurers fell due to the San Francisco earthquake.

PARIS — Takeover speculation returned to a market encouraged by Wall Street's firmness. The CAC-40 index gained 1.24 per cent to 1,828.13.

LONDON — London shares continued the track Wall Street's volatile movements but ended at the day's high, up 34.6 to 2,170.1.

NEW YORK — U.S. shares climbed slowly after an early fall. At 1530 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were up 15.16 to 2653.89.

# ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

## ACC aviation insurers open meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors of companies dealing with civil aviation insurance and representatives of insurance companies in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries opened a three day meeting in Amman. A spokesman for the meeting said that issues pertaining to cooperation among the national airlines with regard to pricing, ground services and reinsurance will be among the topics to be discussed at the meeting. Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline's director-general Hussam Abu Ghazaleh addressed the opening session underlining the fact that the ACC airlines constitute an essential element in the ongoing integration among the ACC states.

## Arbitration conference opens Monday

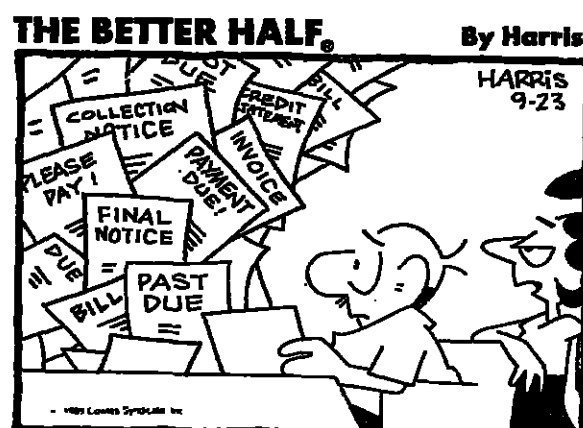
AMMAN (J.T.) — The Third Arab-European arbitration conference will open in Amman Monday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, with the participation of 350 specialists in law, economics and other experts from around the world. The three-day meeting will be devoted to discussing arbitration issues in the Arab World, inter-Arab agreements involving arbitration, arbitration in international commerce and amendments to the existing arbitration laws in Arab countries. According to the organisers, the participants will present ideas and proposals about certain legislations and about arbitration in general in the first half of the 20th century citing experiments in the United States and the United Kingdom.

## CAEU urges payment of dues

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Wednesday issued an appeal to Arab countries to fulfil their financial commitments to the council so that it can pursue efforts towards serving Arab economies. The appeal was made by CAEU Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim upon opening the 17th annual meeting of companies set up by CAEU. Certain Arab countries have failed to pay up their contributions to Pan-Arab companies, thus further delaying the implementation of the companies' activities and programmes, Ibrahim continued. The meeting, Ibrahim noted, is bound to boost the work of CAEU and those companies affiliated to it, and will no doubt contribute towards integration among Arab states. Taking part in the two-day meeting, are representatives of the Arab Mining Company, the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA), the Arab Company for Livestock Development and the Arab Company for Industrial Investments as well as representatives of Arab countries and other Arab organisations. A CAEU spokesman said the meeting will review a report on the companies' activities and studies that they had conducted for new projects in the Arab World.

## Frangoul heads Iraqi central bank

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein appointed one of his advisers, Subhy Frangoul, as governor of the central bank Tuesday, Baghdad radio said. It said Frangoul, a career technocrat, took the oath before Hussein.



"Your mother always said your ears are dirty enough to grow potatoes in. Maybe we could start a profitable farm."

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Harri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YASSA  
GULEN  
DIRNEH  
SYPEDE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:     OUR

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: CYNIC FAMED BARREL ABRUPT  
Answer: How the backseat driver's husband drove — BY EAR

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp





## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A good day to make sure you have all your facts and figures down pat as there are aspects currently influencing present conditions which indicate confused or muddled thinking and behaviour of an uncertain nature.

**ARIES:** (March 20 to April 17) A couple you have been expecting from a distance will now happily arrive. Invite a talented friend who can be helpful to into your home.

**TAURUS:** (April 18 to May 19) Accept an invitation from a couple of friends to go on a jaunt. Be off to visit relatives and neighbours with your attachment.

**GEMINI:** (May 20 to June 20) Make a point now to visit friends and close companions who are at a distance. A good day for your fall office house cleaning.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 21 to July 21) Don't delay at your work or you lose some big opportunities. A couple will give you the right ideas to make more money through your talents.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Meeting with groups of friends can be most helpful to now. Examine in business and finances now will pay off dividends to you.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21) Think over putting out any money carefully now before making

ing a commitment. Carry through with any promise that you have made to your attachment.

**LIBRA:** (September 22 to October 22) Be very active with friends but avoid a potential confrontation with one. You don't like some home expenses but they are necessary and have to be paid.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Open your mind to all sorts of different business ideas. Highly particular friends now will give you very good suggestions. Accept it.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 20) You have opportunities at home to enjoy bringing outside charms. This is a time when you would be wise to economize carefully.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 21 to January 19) Lots of good new ideas of business will come from newcomers in your life. Entertain at home but avoid inviting anyone who is argumentative.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 20 to February 17) A friend will have for you a business idea that will require much delving into. With all the friends now about, don't lose your good judgement.

**PISCES:** (February 18 to March 19) You and your family should join with outside contacts at recreation. A day to make a point to be alone with your attachment.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1989

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The one way to charm your way through today's mixed aspects is through the lighter side of life where social outlets, romance and similar matters are the focal point. Hidden talents need to be expressed.

**ARIES:** (March 20 to April 17) Travelling with several friends would be excellent now. You and your family can now work out excellent relationships both personally and business-wise.

**TAURUS:** (April 18 to May 19) You will need to put more effort and skill into a plan of a business nature. Make your home charming. Then entertain everyone who charms you.

**GEMINI:** (May 20 to June 20) Be off on trips with friends so you can visit neighbours and close companions. Conditions that have been difficult or postponed can now be put in effect at your residence.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 21 to July 21) Several persons now of varied experience will give you excellent ideas for your work. Take your family into your confidence about your business affairs now.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Your basic duties at home can no longer be put off. Lots of association with your loved ones is vitally important now.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21) Now is the time to arrange

important jaunts or trips with your family. Cooperative business associates will certainly be helpful to you in your business affairs.

**LIBRA:** (September 22 to October 22) Much activity with friends will require that you do considerable entertaining. A friend will aid you to get some money released that is being held.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Much excitement at home can make conditions at your dwelling more pleasant. Business matters of policy, different from your usual ones can now occupy your attention.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 20) Take home some art, beauty or colour for your home now. A trip together now would bring you and your attachment much closer.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 21 to January 19) Lots of information about business is available to you from experts. Go along with viewpoints that are very important to your own clan.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 20 to February 17) Try to see as many friends as possible whom you have not seen recently. Straighten out any financial problems now with your loved one.

**PISCES:** (February 18 to March 19) All kinds of interesting ideas for making money are now yours. Show your attachment your affection by following wishes given.

## Edberg beats Michibata

TOKYO (AP) — Top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden trounced Canadian Glenn Michibata 6-1, 6-3 Wednesday in the first round of the \$627,500 Seiko Super Tennis tournament.

Edberg, ranked third in the world, broke service twice in the first set and three times in the second, winding up the 62-minute match with a drop shot.

Qualifier Michibata, ranked no. 179 in the world, managed one service break in the second set on the official court of the Yoyogi National Stadium.

"I'm quite satisfied with today's game," Edberg said. "I felt confident and enjoyed the game very much as a first round match."

He said he expected a tough game Thursday against Australian John Fitzgerald, who beat Edberg 7-6 (7-2), 6-0 in this tournament's semifinals last year.

In another first round match, Ronald Agnir of Haiti struggled two hours and 22 minutes for a 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, 7-5 triumph over Japan's Shuzo Matsukata, who let two match points slip away at 5-4 in the third set.

Agnir, no. 39, and Matsukata, no. 124, each broke service after reaching 5-5 in the first set. Matsukata took the tie-break on a double fault by Agnir, a serve and a volley.

In the third set, the 21-year-old Matsukata fired a pair of two aces for a 5-4 lead, but with double match point in the 10th game, he netted a forehand from the baseline and then hit a ball into the spectators' seats.

Agnir said, "I was lucky as this artificial surface is fit for me. It was a very tough match but Matsukata is still young and he was nervous during the game."

## Ali, Foreman, Frazier sell a bit of nostalgia

LONDON (R) — Former heavyweight boxing champions Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier and George Foreman, whose title bouts gave boxing some of its greatest moments, made a rare appearance Tuesday to sell a bit of nostalgia.

At a news conference to promote a video of some of their greatest fights, Foreman, who is attempting a comeback at the age of 41, said they would all have beaten current champion Mike Tyson.

"I think everyone at this table would have whipped Mike Tyson," Foreman told a gathering of fans and journalists. "And if anyone thinks Tyson will beat George Foreman, you'd better put your straight-jacket on."

Foreman, world champion from 1973 to 1976, is due to fight fellow American Gerry Cooney in Atlantic City on Jan. 15 next year.

He is hoping the fight will lead to a stab at Tyson himself.

But despite Foreman's bravado, the man who always described himself as "the greatest," three-time world champion Ali, was a sad shadow of his former self.

The debilitating neurological disorder, Parkinson's disease, from which Ali has suffered in the last few years has slowed him down and robbed him of his trademark "shuffle," the lightning footwork that saved him from many a knockout punch in his 21-year professional career.

While Foreman and Frazier engaged in verbal sparring, Ali, whose speech has been affected by the disease, remained quiet. "I can't believe I said those crazy things," he said of the quick rhyming repartee that made him famous.

Foreman harangued Ali, trying to get him into a ring to demonstrate the shuffle one last time. Despite the pleas of a crowd of old fans, Ali would not budge.

## Karpov meets Timman in candidates' final

LONDON (R) — Former Soviet champion Anatoly Karpov, playing his finest game in the world chess championship semi-finals, beat compatriot Artur Yusupov Tuesday and will face Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the final.

Karpov took the initiative after an uninspired game by Yusupov, who fell behind on the clock and made a mistake on his 18th move which ultimately cost him the eighth and final game.

The game was a Lasker's defence in the queen's gambit and followed theory until the 17th move, when Yusupov found himself in trouble. Yusupov, facing a time scramble in a hopelessly lost position, made the time control in the 40th move, but resigned 13 moves later.

The contest between Timman and Britain's Jon Speelman produced a fascinating and complex game.

For much of the time, Speelman, playing black, had the advantage. But on the 22nd move, he completely overlooked

the possibility of Timman employing a particularly knight manoeuvre. When the dust settled, Timman was a pawn ahead and in a superior position.

The game was a variation of the appropriately named English opening, recently employed by world champion Garry Kasparov against fellow Soviet grandmaster Rafael Vaganian.

Timman applied his more experienced technique in a way that Speelman, who may have hoped to reach adjournment after six hours play with chances of finding a swindle, was forced to capitulate after the 54th move.

The winners will receive approximately £50,000 (\$79,000) and the losers £30,000 (\$47,000) depending on the exchange rate with the Swiss franc, the currency in which the prize money is held.

The contest will provide the next challenger for world champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union.

Final scores: Karpov, Yusupov 4.5, 3.5 Timman, Speelman 4.5, 3.5

## Graf has mind on Maradona after defeating Fendick

ZURICH (R) — World number one Steffi Graf completed the formality of first round victory in the European indoor tennis championships Tuesday but said afterwards she was more excited by the prospect of watching Diego Maradona play football.

The top-seeded West German registered a comfortable 6-3, 6-1 win over American Patty Fendick in the opening round of the \$250,000 tournament, an event she won in 1986 and 1987. "I am very pleased with the way I played but it was not a real test. I was somewhat impatient at her because she was so slow in serving. I wanted her to get on with it," Graf said.

"I am more excited at seeing Diego Maradona play here tomorrow for Napoli. He is one of my favourites. The schedule has

been arranged to make sure I can see the match."

The Argentine World Cup captain and his side take on Swiss club Wettingen in the second round of the UEFA Cup defence on the day Graf plays South African Dinky van Rensburg in the second round.

## THE Daily Crossword by Peter Swift

ACROSS

- Insects
- Secretive one
- Salt
- Sire
- Sound system
- Initiated
- Bricklayer
- Chase fly
- bulb
- Le Gallienne
- Gray work?
- Weight losers
- Baseball hits
- Joined up: abbr.
- Street sign
- Magpie and
- Mince
- Once that rate
- light?
- Tints
- Sch. subj.
- Modem
- heliostat
- Ways: abbr.
- Gr. colonnade
- Salver
- Talk a break
- Pulls a boner
- "The — of St. Agnes" (Knots)
- Food
- disappears?
- Audience
- alights
- Rainbow
- Bag
- Sounds of
- hustling
- Meet out
- Job boss
- Jacob's
- brother
- A Markey
- "Common Sense" author
- Matted
- Gals
- Sea birds

DOWN

- Literary monogram
- Saine
- In the past
- Belle!
- Allen and McQueen
- Half a dance
- Speech
- problem
- Walking
- Coal workers
- Vegas
- 11
- Eng. author
- Borders
- First First
- Lady's first
- name
- "— Vice"
- College bling
- Run into
- Lighting
- expert
- Turns ranck
- Factory
- Golfier Calvin
- Icy stuff
- Night sound
- Throw
- Mississippi
- has four
- Planet Errol
- Whitneys
- Trails
- Abraha
- U.K. part
- Originated
- Doughy pastry
- Annual award
- Heel
- Filbert
- Grid scores
- Container
- Single
- Legal thing

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ALICE FINANCE MEAL  
DOBA RUSSES ABLE  
FISHING PIRATE  
STRAINS PIANO  
DOTTED SPAT  
SQUIDRY TIGER CAB  
YAMAR MADORE ABE  
YOGA REBEA WIDEBEL  
DOR AVASTY BEST  
DUTY MEAT MASSES  
LUNA BODIT  
ACCORD BACONATE  
YOGA REBEA WIDEBEL  
DOR AVASTY BEST  
DUTY MEAT MASSES  
LUNA BODIT

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## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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## BEST TURNS OUT SECOND-BEST

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A K 7 3 2  
♥ A Q 6 5 2  
♦ Q 10 6  
♣ Void

**WEST**  
♠ J 8  
♥ J 9 8 4 3  
♦ 7 4  
♣ A J 9 5

**EAST**  
♠ Q 10 9 4  
♥ 7  
♦ A 3  
♣ Q 8 7 6 3 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ 6 5  
♥ K 10  
♦ K J 9 8 5 2  
♣ K 10 4

The bidding:

South West North East

Pass Pass 1 ♣ Pass

2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass

6 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♣

Watching Sunday afternoon

football, how often have you seen

seemingly easy pass fall incomplete

because the receiver takes his eye off

the ball. Today's hand is the equivalent

in bridge.

Note South's waiting bid of three

spades. He wanted to see whether

his partner's jump shift was based

on diamond support. When he learned that it was, he wasted no time in getting to slam.

West led a trump to his partner's ace, and a trump came back. When East followed, the hand seemed too easy for words. Declarer could ruff a club, discard one on a high heart and set up a long heart to take care of the other club. So he cashed the king of hearts and crossed to the ace, to find that he had encountered a disastrous split. His only remaining chance was that spades would divide evenly. But when that chance didn't materialize, the slam went abeying.

Declarer tackled his suits in the wrong order. See the difference if, after winning the second trump, declarer goes after spades first. When both defenders follow to two rounds of spades, it is a simple matter to set up a long spade by ruffing, crossing back with club ruff for another spade ruff, then getting back with hearts to take two discards.

What if spades break 5-1? Then declarer still has time to go after the hearts, since he needs to ruff only one heart and to find a 4-2 break there to establish an extra trick.

## LOST PASSPORT

Jahangir Osmaiv Ali announces the loss of his passport number E-055298 issued in Bangladesh.

Whoever finds it, please hand to the nearest police station. Thank you

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Dustin Hoffman  
Tom Cruise  
in  
**RAIN MAN**  
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 9:00

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Terry Farrell...in  
**CRAZY LEGS**  
Performances: 1:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

**MANDINGO**  
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOM** Tel: 675571

STEVEN SPIELBERG AND  
WALT DISNEY STUDIOS  
Present  
who framed  
**ROGER RABBIT**  
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

Dustin Hoffman  
Tom Cruise  
in  
**RAIN MAN**  
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 5:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30



# Apartheid haunts Commonwealth

**KUALA LUMPUR (Agencies) —** The 1989 Commonwealth summit began Wednesday with pageantry, a flurry of assaults against South Africa, and a quick decision on the globe-spanning group's top job.

Barely had the opening fanfare of Malay gongs died away than leaders of the 49-nation organisation were denouncing apartheid and declaring the need to tighten the economic screw on Pretoria. Midway through a review of current global trends, they went into an unscheduled closed session for an unprecedented ballot on who should succeed Shridath Ramphal as secretary-general.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

The vote was kept secret and Anyaoku's appointment officially described as "unanimous" in keeping with the Commonwealth's deep commitment to consensus.

Inside the cavernous meeting hall, the monarchs, sultans, presidents and prime ministers of states large and small were quickly at odds with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher over her outspoken opposition to economic sanctions against Pretoria.

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney looked fixedly at an impassive Thatcher as he declared sanctions had led to South African President F.W. de Klerk's decision to permit anti-apartheid demonstrations and release eight long-serving political prisoners.

"The struggle, however, is not over," he said, "We believe it is important that the pressure not be relaxed, including particularly financial pressure, until we can begin to see the end, at last, of apartheid."

Anti-apartheid activist Allan Boesak attacked Britain for opposing sanctions and said he had urged the Commonwealth leaders to keep up pressure on De Klerk.

"In South Africa there is a

beginning of change, but it is only a beginning," Boesak told a news conference after the opening summit session. He said the change was one of climate rather than substance.

"The South African government should not be given any kind of comfort at this time."

"What is necessary is to keep the pressure on as much as possible."

Boesak said he was very happy with the results of his meetings with Australian and Canadian prime ministers.

But he was not invited to meet Mrs. Thatcher or any of her officials and was sharply critical of Britain's role in opposing sanctions.

The Commonwealth leaders sat in rows on a three-tiered stage

in the centre's Dewan, Merdeka Hall.

They entered in groups and their spouses followed separately. Mrs. Thatcher's husband, Denis Thatcher, and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband, Asif Zardari, arrived last, chatting together.

The opening speeches reflected differences on whether to press for tougher sanctions against South Africa now, or give de Klerk a six-month moratorium to implement promised reforms.

Debates on the deterioration of the global environment and international drug trafficking were also scheduled to dominate the informal agenda.

Mahathir, in opening speech, blamed developed countries for the world's environmental problem on the developing countries.

## British inquiry clears Waldheim

**LONDON (AP) —** A British Ministry of Defence report has concluded that Austrian President Kurt Waldheim was not responsible for the execution of six British commandos in World War II, although he probably was aware of it.

The 117-page report, commissioned by the Ministry of Defence, also rejected allegations that Britain was involved in covering up evidence of Waldheim's activities as a German army officer.

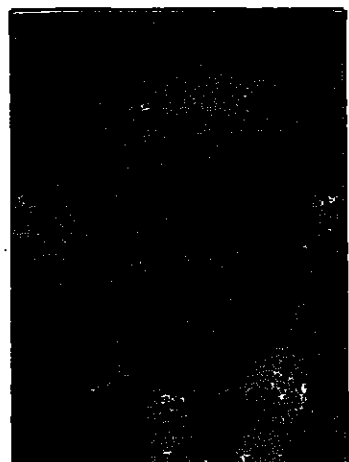
"The report indicates that... Waldheim knew of the capture of the British servicemen and the possible fate of 'commandos' in such circumstances," Defence Minister Archie Hamilton told the House of Commons Tuesday. "But no evidence has come to light to indicate that as a junior

staff officer he had the power either to order or to prevent that fate or indeed to affect the outcome in any way."

Hamilton said 16 investigators had examined thousands of documents provided by the United States, West Germany and Greece, and the government accepted the research team's findings.

"Allegations that records were altered, destroyed or withheld to protect President Waldheim are shown to be unfounded," Hamilton said. "He was not wanted by the United Kingdom either as a 'top Nazi' or as a war criminal."

In Vienna, a statement released by Waldheim's office hailed the findings, saying the report "proves once again that the allegations against Federal President Dr. Kurt Waldheim in



Kurt Waldheim connection with his wartime service are devoid of any foundation in this case too, as has been the case with previous accusations."

But the report did not satisfy Waldheim's accusers, including the United States government, Britain's parliamentary war crimes group and the World Jewish Congress.

## Poll fervor grips Indian opposition

**NEW DELHI (R) —** Indian political parties began feverish preparations Wednesday for general elections set for next month that could make or mar the future of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

In a surprise move Tuesday, Gandhi set Nov. 22 and 24 for elections of more than 500 members of parliament, leaving barely four weeks for the opposition to get its act together.

But the often fractious opposition, which has vowed to field one common candidate in most constituencies against Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party, began the bruising race for power in earnest.

Opposition leaders believe a one-on-one contest will bring them sure victory. Only once before since independence in 1947 has the opposition fought a united battle and that led to the defeat of Rajiv's mother, Indira Gandhi, in 1977.

Even before the polling date was formally announced Tuesday, the opposition swung into

action and summoned all senior leaders to New Delhi to pick nominees.

Gandhi's party, fighting with its back against the wall over charges of illegal pay-offs in arms deals and corruption in high places, appeared equally determined and decided to name its candidates by Monday.

Choice of candidates often leads to bitter wrangling and opposition leaders were hoping for a revolt in Gandhi's party.

The Janata Dal, the main centrist opposition party, is also beset with problems in reaching a seat-sharing compromise with the Communists and the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The opposition is united, however, in making Gandhi and corruption the central themes of its campaign.

Opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who is leading a crusade against corruption and has done the most damage to Gandhi's image as 'Mr. Clean'

## China tightens Hong Kong screws

**HONG KONG (R) —** China stepped up pressure on the British colony of Hong Kong Wednesday, blasting the government for its decision to relocate a key navy base before Peking resumes sovereignty in 1997.

In the fourth attack on the colony in little more than a week, senior Hong Kong-based diplomat Ke Zhaohu told the official New China News Agency the government had no right to move HMS Tamar, on the waterfront in the heart of the central business district, without China's agreement.

Last week, Chief Secretary Sir David Ford said the naval dockyard at Tamar, home to Britain's dwindling naval presence in the Far East, would be moved to make way for a reclamation project.

Ke, who heads the Chinese delegation to the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group charged with

ensuring a smooth handover in 1997, told the agency: "We are unable to accept this."

"It is the Chinese side's persistent stand that the above-mentioned issue should be settled through discussions by the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group," he said.

In the past few days, China has accused Hong Kong of acting as a base for subversion, angrily attacked the authorities for permitting dissident swimmer Yang Yang to flee to the United States and delivered two stinging rebukes over the decision to move Tamar, including the latest by Ke.

"The British side has unilaterally announced the decision in public on this outstanding issue in an attempt to make it an outstanding fact and force China to recognise it," Ke said.

He linked the Tamar issue with deployment of China's People's

Liberation Army (PLA), which will station troops in Hong Kong after the colony becomes a special administrative region.

China's bloody suppression of the pro-democracy movement, when PLA troops and tanks stormed Peking June 4, sent shock waves through Hong Kong. The subsequent emergence of hardliners in control in Peking and their increasingly tough stance towards Hong Kong have dealt a series of hard blows to confidence in the colony.

London has urged Peking to reconsider the psychological impact of stationing PLA troops in Hong Kong after 1997, while Peking insists it has the sovereign right to do so.

Diplomats said China had assumed it would inherit intact HMS Tamar, situated in one of the world's most spectacular deep-water harbours.

## Reagan still wonders about contra scandal

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** Former President Ronald Reagan says he wonders now whether the Iran-contra affair during his second term in the White House wasn't "a setup, a sting operation, by the Iranians."

Reagan's latest comment on the most controversial foreign policy initiative of his eight years in office comes in a new book, "Speaking My Mind," published by Simon and Schuster.

The book is a collection of speeches, each preceded by a short essay containing Reagan's reflection on the subject or the occasion.

One of the speeches is his March 4, 1987, address after the release of a report on his administration's decision to sell arms to Iran while seeking Iranian help for the release of American hostages.

The Tower Commission, appointed by Reagan to look into the controversy, said his decision to sell arms to Iran "rewarded a regime that clearly supported terrorism and hostage-taking."

Reagan, in his speech, took responsibility for things that had "happened on my watch," but also said he "didn't ask enough

about the specifics of the total Iran plan."

He has since said there are many aspects of the affair he still does not understand.

In his new remarks, the former president defended the initiative although he said that "something clearly went wrong with our original plan."

"I'm going to cover this more completely in my memoirs," he wrote, "but I get beside myself when I think that people believe I would actually trade arms for hostages."

"I did not set it as trading arms for hostages because we were dealing with Iranian intermediaries, not the kidnappers themselves," said Reagan. "I know it may be a fine line to most people, but it's what I believed then and what I still believe."

"I have to say that in looking back I wonder if this whole thing wasn't a setup, a sting operation, by the Iranians," said the former president. "Maybe we were conned into believing these were moderate Iranians seeking to reach out to the West, while in reality they were working directly for the Ayatollah just to get some arms. Who knows?"

Colombians, amid tight security by government soldiers, stroll through downtown Medellin.

## Colombia judges launch strike

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —** The country's judges went on strike to protest a colleague's assassination and gunmen claimed another life in the news industry, the eighth since Colombia launched its all-out war on cocaine barons.

An anonymous caller claiming to speak for drug traffickers took responsibility for Tuesday's killing of Hector Jimenez Rodriguez, a federal appeals court judge in the cocaine trafficking center of Medellin.

Hours later in Medellin, assassins gunned down radio journalist Diego Vargas Escobar in similar fashion, police said.

The slaying of Jimenez, 55, sparked a three-day strike by about 17,000 judicial workers, including most of Colombia's judges, to demand more protection from drug gangs.

Traffickers seek through murder, bombings and threats to force an end to the government crackdown on Colombia's cocaine cartels, launched after the Aug. 18 slaying of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan, an anti-drug crusader.

Vargas Escobar, 54, was the eighth news industry worker slain since the crackdown began. A

radio journalist said Vargas Escobar, who worked for the Medellin station La Voz de las Americas, had received death threats recently.

The journalist, who did not want to be identified for security reasons, said he did not know who made the threats.

In anonymous calls to radio stations last week, the Extraditables — alleged traffickers wanted in the United States — claimed responsibility for the slayings of a newspaper circulation manager and officer administrator in Medellin.

Police said Jimenez was about to step into the car of a colleague outside his home when two men pulled up on a motorcycle and one stroled over and shot the judge six times.

An anonymous caller told a radio station in Medellin that the Extraditables killed him in retaliation for the extradition of Colombian drug suspects to the United States.

Colombia has extradited four suspects since President Virgilio Barco initiated the crackdown, and the extraditables have promised that they would kill 10 judges for every drug dealer extradited.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sisulu says violence needed

**SOWETO, South Africa (AP) —** Freed African National Congress (ANC) leader Walter Sisulu said Tuesday his organization would not reject violence as a way to pressure the government into concessions that might lead to negotiations. Sisulu, released Sunday along with six other senior ANC leaders, said pressure by anti-apartheid groups locally and abroad compelled the government to free them unconditionally after lengthy prison terms. The releases "were merely a reaction to the pressure of the world," Sisulu told foreign journalists in an interview at a church near his home in Soweto, the huge township outside Johannesburg. Sisulu, 77, is the highest-ranking of the freed activists. He spent 26 years in prison, along with his close friend, senior ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

### Nicaragua opposition to get aid

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** President George Bush is expected to quickly sign legislation providing \$9 million to the Nicaraguan political opposition's campaign to wrest power from the Sandinista government in February's national elections. The Senate approved the package 64 to 35 late Tuesday after soundly defeating a series of attempts to cut or restrict the money. The House had approved it Oct. 4 on a vote of 263-156. Bush is expected to sign the measure soon so that aid can begin to flow this month, the only month when voter registration is conducted for the Feb. 25, 1990, balloting. Agreement on the package represented a political truce of sorts on what has been the most divisive foreign policy issue to confront Congress this decade.

### Soviets admitted to psychiatry group

**ATHENS (R) —** A 72-nation assembly voted Wednesday to readmit Moscow to the International Psychiatric Community, on the condition that investigation confirms political abuse is abolished in the Soviet Union. The overwhelming majority of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) voted to bring back Moscow after the Soviets acknowledged for the first time that abuses took place and pledged to stop them. One hour before the vote in the early morning hours, the Soviets submitted a letter admitting past abuses, promising to reform their practices, open up their system to the West and support changes in Soviet psychiatric leadership. After a heated debate, 291 ballots were cast in favour of the readmission, with 45 against and 19 abstentions. About 50 countries were present at the assembly which met in Athens on the occasion of the eighth World Congress of Psychiatry.

### Reagan astrologer 'charted detente'

**NEW YORK (R) —** In claims certain to raise new controversy about star-gazing in the Reagan White House, Nancy Reagan's personal astrologer says she picked the date for signing the INF treaty and used Mikhail Gorbachev's horoscope to forge closer Soviet-U.S. ties. In interviews on CBS television Monday and Tuesday, astrologer Joan Quigley said she helped shape U.S.-Soviet relations through her analysis of Gorbachev's horoscope. "I talked with Nancy for two or three hours convincing her that Gorbachev was intelligent, open to new ideas."

## COLUMN

### Even call of nature scares Israelis

**TEL AVIV (R) —** When a foreign tourist shouted "stop" on a bus en route to occupied Jerusalem, Israeli passengers seized him, fearing a repeat of an attack in July, the daily Maariv said Monday. "You must stop immediately. I must take care of my needs," a fearful 17-year-old English-speaker told the driver. The wary Israelis, including passing motorists, watched the teenager run behind some shrubs to answer nature's call. When he emerged smiling, all were relieved.

### MPs protest as parliament goes live

**LONDON (R) —** Parliamentarians donned sunglasses and complained bitterly about the heat and glare of camera lighting Tuesday as television came to Britain's House of Commons for the first time. But the video film of a routine session was viewed only on internal monitors. Debates are not due to be broadcast until a six-month experiment officially begins Nov. 21. Chinese lantern-style lights hanging from the ceiling of the historic wood-paneled chamber and small video cameras panning the leather-upholstered benches drew immediate scorn from bemused members of parliament (MPs). Several put on dark glasses. Conservative MP Christopher Soames complained to the heavily-robed and bewigged speaker Bernard Weatherill about the rising temperature. "I share your views on the question of heat, but I'm wearing a lot more clothes than you are," the speaker replied. "If the lights are kept at the present level," rebel Labour MP Tam Dalyell said, "the chamber will be so intensely soporific that many of us will just go to sleep."

### Great Wall bricks used for toilets

**PEKING (R) —** Peasants have dismantled a long section of China's famed Great Wall, using it to build homes, pig pens and even toilets, the official People's Daily said Wednesday. It said more than 30 kilometres of the wall near Qingshui in the north China region of Inner Mongolia had been partly dismantled. "Homes, toilets and pens and for pigs and goats have been built in nearby villages with bricks from the Great Wall," the newspaper said. "The wall looks like it has been disrobed, leaving only its earthen core. In some places, bricks were taken away to build furnaces, and pits were dug to bury goods or even for use as homes for people. It is in terrible shape." The section of the 3,200-kilometre wall was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), although most of the wall is some 2,000 years old.

### 'Blacks should have black Jesus'

**LONDON (R) —** Former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali believes black Christians should have their own black Jesus, the Sun Newspaper reported Tuesday. The traditional portrayal of Jesus, angels and saints as white was meant to reinforce white supremacy and make blacks feel inferior, said Ali who became a Muslim in 1964 and is closely connected with America's black Muslims. "The reason is because the whites didn't want their children to see a nigger up there on the cross," he added in an interview with The Sun. "If they continue with their icons, then black people should put up their own of a black Jesus, black saints and black angels. To them, Jesus is black, should be black."

## Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	08 43 18 64	Cloudy	
ATHENS	11 22 18 64	Cloudy	
BAHIA	24 72 32 90	Clear	
BANGKOK	24 75 31 88	Clear	
Buenos Aires	08 46 20 68	Clear	
CAIRO	18 64 26 79	Clear	
CHICAGO	05 41 08 47	Cloudy	
COPENHAGEN	12 54 13 55	Cloudy	
DALLAS	14 54 21 64	M. M.	
GENOVA	02 38 18 61	Clear	
HONG KONG	20 58 25 77	Clear	
ISTANBUL	09 48 14 57	Rain	
LONDON	11 02 18 64	Cloudy	
LOS ANGELES	18 60 29 85	Clear	
MADRID	12 54 21 70	Cloudy	
MEXICO	24 75 32 90	Clear	
MONTREAL	04 37 08 48	Cloudy	
MOSCOW	03 37 08 48	Cloudy	
NEW DELHI	18 62 32 80	Clear	
NEW YORK	08 46 21 70	Rain	
PARIS	08 46 21 70	Cloudy	
ROME	04 32 12 54	Clear	
SYDNEY	15 59 24 75	Cloudy	
TOKYO	12 54 18 64	Clear	
VIENNA	08 46 19 68	Clear	

M - indicates missing information.

## IRAQI-JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT CO.

### INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 1B/89 SALE OF USED TRUCK-TRACTORS

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company intends to sell a number of its used truck-tractors:-

- A number of (109) used truck-tractors type M.A.N. manufactured in 1981.
- A number, of upto, (242) used truck-tractors type (STYER), manufactured in 1981.

#### Related information

- Custom duties of those truck-tractors are UNPAID.
- Offers can be submitted to buy one truck-tractor, or a number of truck-tractors or all the quantity.
- Truck-tractors can be checked and inspected at the company's garages in Aqaba/ Jordan starting from Nov. 10, 1989.
- Copies of terms and conditions and technical specifications can be bought for the sum of 100 Jordanian dinars (JD), from the company's main offices in Amman, between 4th and 5th Circle, Jabal Amman, during official working hours (0900-1400), starting from Oct. 25, 1989.
- Closing date for submitting offers is Dec. 10, 1989 (1200 hrs).
- Address:

P.O. Box 5134, Amman / Jordan  
Phone No.: 677680, 672502, 672509  
TLX No.: 22237  
FAX No.: 602870

Eng. Jamil Ibrahim  
Director General

## IRAQI-JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT CO.

Tender No. (...12/89)

### Sale of brand new spare parts for truck tractors (M.A.N. - Steyr) (Custom duty unpaid)

Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Company intends to sell quantity of brand new spare parts for truck tractors. Custom duties of those spare parts are unpaid.

Copies of terms and conditions and lists of spare parts can be bought from company's main offices in Jabal Amman, between Fourth and Fifth Circles, during working hours (0800 - 1400) for the sum of 25 Jordan Dinars (JD), starting from 21/10/89.

Closing dates for submitting offers is 25/11/89. (1200 hrs).

ENG. Jamil Ibrahim  
Director General